

### Travel ban on Lebanon stays — U.S.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States has no immediate plans to lift the travel ban on Lebanon, the State Department said Wednesday ahead of a visit here by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Security in Lebanon has not sufficiently improved to allow full and normal travel by Americans to that country, spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "It's been looked at recently, and the decision has been made to keep the travel ban in place," Mr. Burns said. The rebuff came ahead of Mr. Hariri's meeting with President Bill Clinton at the White House Friday to discuss reconstruction aid and Lebanese demands for a lifting of the travel ban that has been in place since 1985. "I'm sure we'll hear a lot about it in the next couple of days," Mr. Burns commented. The State Department would like to see the situation in Lebanon stabilise further, Mr. Burns said.

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### Netanyahu meets Arab diplomats

WEST JERUSALEM (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Wednesday with diplomats from the six Arab states represented in Israel to reassure them of his commitment to reaching agreement with Palestinians on the key issue of Israel's delayed withdrawal from Hebron. "Our aim is to reach a lasting agreement that will leave neither winners nor losers," he told the diplomats from Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman and Tunisia. Mr. Netanyahu invited the diplomats to his office as part of an effort to ease criticism of his hardline policies even among those Arab states which have relations with the Jewish state. At Wednesday's meeting, Mr. Netanyahu shifted the blame for the lack of agreement on Hebron onto the Palestinians. "If the Palestinian side shows goodwill, it is possible to reach agreement," he said.



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Wednesday receives Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti (Petra photo)

## Prime minister delivers King's message to Mubarak Peace process in grave crisis if no Hebron redeployment — Kabariti

CAIRO (Agencies) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Wednesday delivered a message from His Majesty King Hussein to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and said later that the Middle East peace process would be in serious crisis if Israel failed to redeploy in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Mr. Kabariti, speaking to reporters after delivering the message and holding talks with President Mubarak, also said Jordan hoped that American mediation would be successful in removing Palestinian-Israeli differences over Hebron and moving the peace process forward.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King's message to President Mubarak dealt with the latest developments in the peace process and the outcome of the King's efforts to remove the hurdles in the

mentation of the peace process because we feel that these agreements are sacred and should not be tampered with," Mr. Kabariti said.

The prime minister denied reports that Jordan was planning to host a summit meeting of the leaders of Jordan, Egypt, Israel and Palestine.

"This subject was not discussed," he said. "I listened to the president's views about the peace process and discussed a common strategy."

Asked whether King Hussein was mediating between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat, Mr. Kabariti said: "I have not the least idea about such matter, but it is to be emphasised that our position is clear and was announced by King Hussein at the Washington summit."

(Continued on page 7)

## Arafat rejects new Israeli plan for Hebron

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel gave the Palestinians a new plan for redeployment in the town of Hebron on Tuesday night and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said angrily on Wednesday he had complained about it to Egypt and the European Union.

He said the plan divided the West Bank town in two parts and gave Israel the right of hot pursuit into the Palestinian part.

Mr. Arafat described the Israeli plan as a tragedy. "It's a dangerous operation. It shows Israel's aggressive intentions in Hebron and shows complete and abhorrent racism," he added.

"There's no doubt this plan will cause an outcry not just among Palestinians. It will cause an outcry among Palestinians, in the Arab world and internationally," said Mr. Arafat, who waved the document in the air at the presidential palace in Cairo.

Asked about the latest round of talks with Israel on Hebron, he said: "It's passing through very, very difficult circumstances and the impact is very dangerous."

Mr. Arafat said he had



Special United States envoy Dennis Ross (partially seen) speaks with Palestinian coordinator of civilian affairs Jamil Tarifi (centre) and chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat (left) in a hotel lobby in Taba, Egypt, ahead of Wednesday's resumption of Israeli-Palestinian talks (Reuters photo)

shown the document to the ambassadors of Ireland, the Netherlands and Italy, the current, former and future presidents of the European Union.

The Israeli prime minister's office had no immediate comment and Israeli government press office director Moshe Fogel declined to go into details

of the negotiations.

But Mr. Fogel said: "Israel is negotiating in good faith with the objective of redeploying in Hebron without endangering the security of the Jewish residents living in Hebron."

"We are hopeful that an agreement can be reached in the near future."

He said because of gunbattles and clashes that claimed the lives of 60 Palestinians and 15 Israeli soldiers last month, it would take time for the two sides to rebuild trust.

"From our point of view what happened was instigated by the Palestinians. In

(Continued on page 7)

## Ross briefs King Hussein

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S. Middle East peace process coordinator Dennis Ross on Wednesday briefed His Majesty King Hussein by telephone on the latest developments in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

Palestinian and Israeli negotiators were due to begin the latest round of talks, centred on Israel's delayed military pullback from the West Bank town of Hebron, late Wednesday in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba.

Mr. Ross held talks with King Hussein and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on the progress of negotiations in Amman on Monday.

## Israel wants better ties with Jordan despite recent strain, Netanyahu says

WEST JERUSALEM (J.T.) — Israel is determined to cement its ties with Jordan despite the recent strain in relations following the opening of the Jerusalem tunnel and the violence that ensued, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

"Jordan is a very important country to us," Mr. Netanyahu said Monday in an interview with the Jordan Times and the London-based Al Hayat Arabic daily.

"Concerns that we heard from Jordan can be seen as a passing cloud and I believe we can have brighter days ahead."

During the Oct. 1-2 summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, His Majesty King Hussein reportedly criticised Mr. Netanyahu for his government procrastination over peace talks with the Palestinians, the opening of a tunnel near Jerusalem Old City's holy sites and the delay in Israeli redeployment from the town of Hebron in the West Bank.

The King criticised Mr. Netanyahu for his "arrogance of power" and urged him not to lose sight of the "vision" of peace.

Asked whether he appreciated Jordan's concerns that stagnation in the peace

process might lead to violence in the Palestinian territories that might lead to a spill over to Jordan, Mr. Netanyahu said that he did appreciate Jordan's concern but that there was no need for alarm because his government "remain(s) committed to the (Oslo) agreements."

Asked about the "pleasant surprise" he had promised the King during the Washington summit, Mr. Netanyahu said that he hoped the King would not have to "wait for long because I'd like (him) to be confident of our intentions and our progress on the path of peace."

Mr. Netanyahu would not reveal however the sort of surprise he promised not on which front, the Jordanian or the Palestinian front.

"I would like to see progress on both," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu, however, alluded to Jordanian complaints about trade and travel between the two countries and Jordanian demands for an additional 50 million cubic metres of water as stated in the peace treaty.

"We have a number of bureaucratic hur-

(Continued on page 7)

## Lebed coup plot charge sparks Kremlin turmoil

MOSCOW (AFP) — The power struggle around the ailing President Boris Yeltsin intensified Wednesday as Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov accused security chief Alexander Lebed of preparing a coup and Mr. Lebed countered with a call for Mr. Kulikov's dismissal.

Mr. Lebed's isolation within the Kremlin grew as Mr. Kulikov launched his broadside as the architect of the Chechnya peace plan, saying the general was planning to take power by force.

Late in the day Mr. Lebed responded with an ultimatum, telling an impromptu press conference that he would step down if the minister was not sacked.

Mr. Yeltsin called for detailed information about the alleged coup plot. "The president is very concerned about Mr. Kulikov's intervention and has called on Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and the interior minister to urgently present him with detailed information on this subject," the president's office said.

Mr. Kulikov's offensive was the latest in a bruising two-month battle between the two security chiefs which has even had Mr. Yeltsin looking on with concern.

"Lebed has taken a definite decision to go forward, by force, without waiting for the presidential elections of 2000," Mr. Kulikov told reporters. "This is a serious warning. Let everyone do what they have to do."

Responding to Mr. Kulikov's accusation that he had planned a "mutiny" spearheaded by a 50,000-strong force called the Russian legion he wanted set up under his command, Mr. Lebed said he intended to take his adversary to court. "For the first time in my life I intend to go to court, against Anatoly Kulikov," the former general said. "I don't need his money, which he received from bribes, because I will seek damages a single ruble, and I will win this ruble, which for me will be a valuable memory."

He said Mr. Kulikov's allegations were "an absurdity." He continued: "There is a Russian president. He is ill. As a matter of principle I am not going to talk about this with anyone. They are trying out the president in the most crude manner. As a matter of principle I am not going to allow the temporary weakness of the president to be used against him and against Russia."

### Mahasneh to lead multilaterals team

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti has named Jordan's team to the meetings of the Middle East multilateral peace talks on environment. The team will be led by the Secretary General of the Jordan Valley Authority, Duraid Mahasneh, and includes Saleh Al Share', the director of the environment department at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Hala Khayni, from the University of Jordan, Nadia Jawhari, from the Ministry of Planning and Kleib Al Fawaz, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### Polisario team to meet Moroccan officials

RABAT (AFP) — Three leaders of the Polisario front arrived Tuesday in Al Ayoune, the principal city in the contested territory of Western Sahara which is under Moroccan control, sources here confirmed Wednesday. The delegation comprised Behir Mustapha Sayed, the coordinator for the United Nations mission in Western Sahara, Mahfoud Ali Beita, the prime minister of the self-proclaimed Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), and its defence minister, Ibrahim Ghali.

## PUK forces reportedly advance towards Erbil Saddam sends envoy to Rafsanjani to discuss ties

Combined agency dispatches

FIGHTERS OF the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) were reportedly moving towards the key northern Iraqi town of Erbil on Wednesday as their rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) forces were fortifying the town in anticipation of a PUK assault.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein meanwhile sent a special envoy to Iranian President Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani in what was reported to be a bid to improve relations.

Iraq and KDP have accused Iran of supporting the PUK offensive in the north to retake territory lost to the KDP two months ago.

The unidentified envoy met President Rafsanjani and delivered a message from President Saddam.

The Iraqi official expressed his country's "interest in boosting good neighbourly ties" with Iran, as he and Mr. Rafsanjani discussed cooperation on regional issues in their meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Rafsanjani called for efforts to settle the issue of prisoners from the 1980-1988 war between the two countries, and called for implementation of the U.N. ceasefire resolution which

ended the conflict in August 1988.

Coinciding with the disclosure of the latest mission, Baghdad accused Tehran on Wednesday of interfering in its "internal affairs" since the new round of Kurdish fighting erupted in northern Iraq last week.

Iraqi Information Minister Hamed Yousef Hammadi charged that "it's not the first time that Iran has intervened flagrantly in Iraq's internal affairs."

In a rare comment on the situation in northern Iraq, President Saddam Hussein said in Baghdad that "the northern part of the homeland was liberated from the foreigners" in August, "thus smashing what the foreigners have assembled over the years to provide a psychological and material basis for plotting."

Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh said shipments of food into northern Iraq were proceeding normally and "the movement of commodities is free."

Last month, after the KDP had taken control of virtually the entire Kurdish area of northern Iraq, the Iraqi government announced it was lifting an internal blockade that had prevented many essential

(Continued on page 7)

## Likud leader 'not bound' by promises made to Syria by Labour predecessor

By Salameh Ne'matt  
Special to the Jordan Times

WEST JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has confirmed that the former Israeli government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had made a commitment to withdraw from the Syrian Golan Heights to the 4th of June, 1967 borders.

But he described that commitment as merely "hypothetical statements" which were made in the course of negotiations between the two sides, adding that such statements were "not countersigned" by Syria and thus were "not binding" to Israel. It was the first time that the new prime minister had talked about and specifically mentioned the Israeli-Syrian exchange in public.

Mr. Netanyahu, speaking in an exclusive interview with the Jordan Times and the London-based Al Hayat Arabic daily at his office on Monday, responded to what Syrian President Hafez Al Assad recently revealed in an interview with CNN about the commitment by saying: "It was not an agreement, it was a

hypothetical idea put forward by the Israeli side... it was never consolidated into an agreement... it was never countersigned."

Arab League sources revealed last month that Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa told Arab foreign ministers at a closed meeting in Cairo that the previous Israeli government had agreed to withdraw from Syrian territory to the 4th of June borders. He was reported to have said that the deal was reached in July, 1993, two months before reaching the Oslo agreement. Other reports said the Israeli offer, put forth as a draft agreement, was made in September, 1994.

Mr. Netanyahu stressed that the Israeli commitment "was not legally binding" for the State of Israel and that his government would not recognise it, although "it will take it into consideration" when negotiations resume with Damascus.

He explained that Israel's "hypothetical" commitments were not met by a parallel commitment from the Syrian side to fulfil requirements for peace. But he added that negotiations with Syria "would not

start from scratch... we have a framework and some ideas, but it is unrealistic to expect this government, which is elected with a different mandate, to assume automatically every position, especially hypothetical positions, adopted by a previous government."

Mr. Netanyahu also warned Syria that "the consequence of not negotiating is that we have a continuous possibility for escalation from the unresolved situation in Lebanon, and this could be to the detriment of both countries." He said his government would negotiate with Syria "a whole array of things: Lebanon, the Golan, water... these are all areas that could be a potential source of conflict. I don't think conflict is in the interest of Syria any more than it is in the interest of Israel."

Asked whether he would negotiate over Lebanon with Syria, thus recognising the status quo, Mr. Netanyahu said: "Yes. It is a fact that Lebanon is an issue that is in many ways controlled by Syria. We would of course like to see

(Continued on page 7)

## Erbakan survives confidence motion

ANKARA (AFP) — Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan survived an attempt to oust his government on Wednesday when a majority of deputies refused to back opposition moves for a parliamentary debate on a censure motion.

Parliament's deputy spokesman Uluc Gurkan said 256 deputies in the 550-seat assembly supported holding a debate on a motion of no-confidence, but 275 voted otherwise, effectively killing the opposition move.

Three opposition parties had proposed the vote of no-confidence in Mr. Erbakan's government over his Libya visit in early October when Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi launched a scathing attack on Turkey's foreign and Kurdish policies.

Wednesday's parliamentary talks witnessed a heated debate between spokesmen from Mr. Erbakan's pro-Islamic Welfare Party and opposition leaders who accused the premier of allowing Colonel Qadhafi to humiliate Turkey.

"The prime minister of the Turkish republic stayed silent when the republic itself was insulted," said Deniz Baykal, leader of the left-wing Republican People's Party.

Col. Qadhafi hit out at Ankara's friendly relations with Israel and said he supported the creation of a Kurdish homeland — a taboo in Turkey which has been battling separatist Kurds for 12 years.

The flamboyant Libyan leader also attacked

(Continued on page 7)

**Bani Hamida**  
Fall Exhibition  
See Page 3



## Amoco says Egypt and Israel continuing gas talks

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Talks between Egypt and Israel on a "peace gas pipeline" are progressing despite the cooling down of political relations, a U.S. company involved in the project said here Wednesday.

"The peace pipeline is on track with negotiations between Egypt and Israel progressing despite the current setbacks to the peace process," Tony Barrett, Amoco's vice-president for the Middle East, told delegates at a regional gas conference.

"There have been delays since the election" of right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister of Israel. "But the talks have continued," he told AFP later. The "economic benefits of the project are unchanged," he added.

Amoco and Italy's AGIP have made major gas discoveries off the coast of the Nile Delta and are preparing to develop them with much of the output planned to be piped to Israel, Gaza and then Jordan.

Mr. Barrett said the "peace pipeline is the most cost-efficient," if compared to other projects. Mobil's U.S. competitor Enron is offering to sell to Israel liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar.

The LNG project is "more remote" than the gas pipeline, he said, pointing out that the length of the pipeline was only 150 kilometres.

Egypt started supplying Israel with oil after signing a peace treaty with the Jewish state in 1979.

"Relations" between the two countries deteriorated after the election this year of Mr. Netanyahu who has adopted a tougher stance towards the Palestinians and the Syrians than his Labour Party predecessors.



SET FOR COUNTERATTACK: Iraqi Kurds loyal to the pro-Baghdad Kurdistan Democracy Party (KDP) fire a machinegun atop a truck as they prepare to face rival Iraqi Kurdish Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) forces near the northern Iraqi town of Degala. Iraqi Kurds opposed to Baghdad swept north in an apparent bid to surround the city of Erbil, north Iraq's administrative centre held by KDP fighters (see page one) (Reuters photo)

## New Kuwaiti cabinet is sworn in

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The 14-man Kuwaiti cabinet, with its new oil, defence and interior ministers, was sworn in on Wednesday by the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The new cabinet was picked by the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Abdullah Al Sabah after the previous team resigned following parliamentary elections to the 50-seat National Assembly on Oct. 7.

Sheikh Saad urged the new cabinet to set a "good example" and lead the way for "progress and construction" in the country after they were sworn in. Kuwait's official news agency KUNA said.

There were seven new members, but only three without previous ministerial experience. The cabinet also included four members of the new parliament.

"It seems that this cabinet is more or less a technocrat government," said Abdullah Shayeji, commentator and professor of political science at Kuwait University. The cabinet announced

on Tuesday night includes a new oil minister, Essa Al Mazzeidi, described by diplomats as a "good and loyal bureaucrat" but not expected to herald a change in policy for this oil-rich Gulf state.

Oil policy is mainly decided by the ruling Al Sabah family and the Supreme Petroleum Council, which is itself headed by Sheikh Saad, the diplomats added.

Also changed were the defence and interior ministries, but they both stayed in the hands of the ruling family.

Sheikh Salim Sabah Al Salim Al Sabah took over defence, a portfolio which faced fierce criticism in the last parliament during debates on the security failures of the government that led up to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

He was also made one of three deputy prime ministers, one more than in the last cabinet.

Sheikh Salim has headed since 1992 the committee campaigning to discover the fate of some 600 people reported missing from

Kuwait since the Iraqi occupation, and has had previous experience in several ministerial posts, including defence.

"He knows the system. He has a better understanding of the situation" particularly regarding relations with the U.S., said Mr. Shayeji, adding that Sheikh Salim has held ambassadorial posts in Washington and London.

Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al Hamad Al Sabah, the new interior minister, has served as governor of the southern province of Ahmadi since 1991, where diplomats said he performed well and will be in a good position to tackle issues such as the rise in crime.

Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, who has held the foreign-affairs portfolio for 32 of the past 33 years, kept his key post and remained first deputy prime minister.

Sheikh Nasser Al Sabah, one of the four ruling family members in the cabinet, remained information minister, and has temporarily taken on the health portfolio.

Nasser Rodhan kept his finance portfolio and his position as deputy prime minister, while the minister of state for cabinet affairs and the minister of both communications and electricity and water portfolios also kept his post.

Ali Fahd Al Zamil moved from religious affairs to planning, while new Education Minister Abdullah Al Ghunaim returns to the post he held between 1989 and 1990.

The four MP ministers, one less than in the last cabinet, were handed one or two portfolios each, including commerce and industry, housing and public works, religious affairs and justice, and social affairs and labour.

Sheikh Saad, who has been prime minister for the past 18 years, was reappointed to choose his new cabinet on Saturday.

The 14 ministers can all sit and vote in parliament, whether they are elected MPs or not, bringing the total number of seats in the assembly to 61.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sudanese to have permanent constitution

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan will have a permanent constitution next year after the document, to be written by President Omar Al Bashir, is passed by the national assembly and endorsed in a referendum, a government daily reported on Wednesday. It quoted Deputy Speaker Abdul Aziz Shiddo as saying that the national assembly, led by Islamic leader Hassan Al Tourabi, would endorse the constitution in March. It would be officially declared in June during celebrations to mark the eighth anniversary of the coup that brought to power General Bashir's Islamist-military government which suspended the previous constitution. The daily said. Parliamentary legal advisor Mohammad Ahmad Salim was also cited as saying that the draft constitution would be based on current constitutional decrees which he has issued and the prevailing non-partisan political system. The constitution would come into effect after it is endorsed by a majority of the people and signed by Gen. Bashir, the legal advisor said. The referendum would be conducted by the general elections commission, he said.

### Sudan denies supporting Ugandan opposition

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan on Wednesday denied accusations by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni that it was supporting the armed opposition in northern Uganda. Sudanese Information Minister Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammad Khair expressed "astonishment" over the accusations and said that the normalisation agreement mediated by Iran was "progressing as agreed upon," the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) reported. He also called for quick formation of a mechanism to monitor activities on the Uganda-Sudanese border to ensure that no hostile acts are being carried out against each other's territory, SUNA said. On Monday, Mr. Museveni accused Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir of failing to honour peace efforts and charged that Khartoum was fuelling the rebellion in northern Uganda. Uganda and Sudan ended Iranian-brokered talks in Tehran on Friday and agreed to continue efforts to reach a peace settlement. Mr. Museveni said he had no faith in the current negotiations in which the Ugandan government "unwillingly agreed to participate out of respect for Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani."

### 2 Kuwaitis face gallows for murder

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Two Kuwaiti men have been sentenced to death for murdering a fellow citizen and an Iranian money-changer, the English-language Arab Times reported on Wednesday. Musaad Bughaihi, 19, and Hamad Ghanim Al Hajeri, 22, were convicted of abducting and murdering a young Kuwaiti man on July 11, before fleeing the scene in his car, the report said. Two days later, the armed duo walked into a money-changer's office ordering the Iranian proprietor to hand over the contents of the safe and shot the man before he was able to reach for the alarm button. "God made the neck, it is he who will break it," said Bughaihi while his partner in crime sobbed after the death sentence by hanging was passed, the paper reported. Judge Ahmad Mahfouz also ordered the pair, who can appeal against their sentence, to pay 5,001 dinars (\$16,726) to the relatives of each victim. The death sentence is infrequently carried out in Kuwait, with 19 people executed in more than 30 years. The last person to be executed was a Kuwaiti police captain, hanged in September for drowning his lover in 1993.

### 'Pro-Chechenya' hijacker goes on trial in Germany

LANDSHUT, Germany (AFP) — A 21-year-old Turk went on trial Wednesday for hijacking an airliner with 108 passengers and crew aboard in an act aimed against the Russian war in the breakaway land of Chechenya. The Turkish airliner was on a flight from Cyprus to Istanbul when he diverted it to Munich via Sofia on March 8, brandishing a pistol which turned out to be an imitation. The young man, who is charged with hostage-taking and dangerously disrupting air traffic, is appearing in a juvenile court because under German law he was legally a minor at the time. His identity has not been revealed.

### Iran holds mass funeral for 750

TEHRAN (AFP) — A mass funeral was held Wednesday for 750 Iranian soldiers and militiamen killed in the 1980-1988 war against Iraq whose remains took eight years to discover. Coffins draped in the Iranian flag were carried on trailers in front of the parliament building in central Tehran in an official ceremony attended by all the country's leaders as well as military officials. Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri vowed that the cause for which "these martyrs have fallen will continue with force and determination." Iran's leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani were also present to pay their respects to the dead, whose remains were unearthed in the southwest of the country near the Iraqi border. At the end of the ceremony, the convoy left for Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery in southern Tehran to bury the dead in a special section reserved for the "martyrs." The government called for a mass turnout for the funerals and downtown commercial centres, including the bazaar, remained closed. Iran has called on Iraq to help search for soldiers from both countries killed during the war. The remains of around 24,000 Iranian fighters have been found since the August 1988 ceasefire. The war killed 300,000 Iranians, wounded 500,000 and left 380,000 disabled, according to official estimates.

### Algerian training centre destroyed by guerrillas

ALGIERS (AFP) — Armed extremists burned down a professional training centre for some 300 young women in western Algiers, the Al Watan daily reported here Wednesday. It said the 25-strong gang overpowered guards and stayed in the building in the Baïn quarter of the capital for an hour to make sure it had caught fire, before fleeing into a nearby wood. The incident occurred overnight Friday, it added. Last year, 815 schools and 34 training centres were hit in attacks blamed on extremists fighting the Algerian government. The armed fundamentalists consider aspects of education to be un-Islamic. Teachers and pupils have been murdered in the country's bitter conflict, which has claimed 50,000 lives, according to western estimates.

### 24 Iraqis detained in Australia

PERTH (AFP) — A group of 24 Iraqis on board an Indonesian fishing vessel intercepted off the far north coast of Western Australia was being held in a detention centre at Port Hedland, the West Australian daily said Wednesday. It said the group was on a boat apprehended last week by Australian authorities at Ashmore reef, 610 kilometres north of the pearling port of Broome. The Iraqis were being questioned by officers of the Australian immigration department, the paper said. A total of 44 Iraqis have been picked up from Indonesian boats at Ashmore reef in the past five weeks, on Tues

## Palestinian legislators visit Israeli Knesset

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Nine members of the elected Palestinian legislative council made an unprecedented and controversial visit Wednesday to the Israeli parliament, over the objections of right-wing legislators.

"We have come to strengthen the peace process and establish a dialogue between our two parliaments," said Marwan

Barghouti, a Ramallah deputy from Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement who headed the Palestinian delegation.

The Palestinians were met by a representative of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud bloc and deputies from various opposition groups, including five members of the Labour Party.

"I have known these people for a long time and think we should pursue our dialogue even if we don't always agree," said Likud Deputy Gideon Ezra.

Not all Knesset members were so welcoming.

Benny Elon of the far-right Moledet Party asked Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon during the visit for "personal protection against this group of terror-

ists," and other right-wing deputies also protested over the Palestinian presence.

But Labour Deputy Yossi Katz told the visitors: "I am convinced that when all is said and done, there will be an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel."

"Your presence here today, when negotiations are continuing over the Israeli redeployment from

Hebron, proves the commitment of all Knesset factions to pursuing dialogue with you," he said.

The Palestinian delegation was invited by the small Arab-Israeli communist party Hadash and their Knesset tour coincided with a visit by four communist deputies from the European Parliament.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 ..... Iris  
14:30 ..... Take Your Pick  
15:00 ..... Corington Cross  
15:30 ..... Feature Film  
17:00 ..... News Flash  
17:01 ..... Feature Film (continued)  
18:00 ..... Le Monde Est a Vous  
19:30 ..... News Headlines  
19:35 ..... Pacific Station  
20:01 ..... American Chart Show  
20:30 ..... Material World  
21:00 ..... Kung Fu  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature Film  
23:59 ..... Taratata

### PRAYER TIMES

04:19 ..... Fajr  
05:36 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
11:21 ..... Dhuhr  
14:35 ..... Asr  
17:06 ..... Maghreb  
18:24 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swedish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel.  
622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church  
Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel.  
771751.

Amman International Church  
Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.  
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department  
of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise  
during the weekend becoming  
slightly above average with  
winds easterly to southeasterly  
moderate. In Aqaba, winds will  
be northerly moderate and seas  
calm.

Amman ..... 13/27  
Aqaba ..... 18/32  
Deserts ..... 10/30  
Jordan Valley ..... 18/32

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 24, Aqaba 30. Humidity  
readings: Amman 31 per cent,  
Aqaba 49 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh ..... 736011

Dr. Jihad Sammour ..... 765018

Dr. Hisham Kan'an ..... 790286

Dr. Khalid Asbur ..... 666973

Firas pharmacy ..... 661912

Ferdows pharmacy ..... 783336

Al Asana pharmacy ..... 637055

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660

Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672

Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Darwish ..... 884876

Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad ..... 985550

Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

#### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department  
661111

Civil Defence Immediate Res-  
cue ..... 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111,  
637777

Fire Brigade ..... 617101

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 843402

Traffic Police ..... 896390

Public Security Department  
630321

Hotel Complaints ..... 605800

Price Complaints ..... 661176

Water and Sewerage Com-  
plaints ..... 897467

Amman Municipality Com-  
plaints ..... 787111

Telephone Information (direc-  
tory assistance) ..... 121

Overseas Calls ..... 010230

Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs ..... 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs  
661101

Jordan Television ..... 773111

Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority  
815615

Electric Power Company  
636381

RJ Flight Information 08-  
53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-  
53200

#### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre  
813813/32

Khalidi Maternity ..... 644281/6

Alkhalid Maternity ..... 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity  
642362

Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131

University Hospital ..... 845845

Al-Musasher Hospital  
667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen

777101/3

Al-Bashir ..... 775111/26

Army, Marka ..... 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital  
602240/50

Amal Hospital ..... 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart  
and Special Surgery ..... 865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital  
(09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital  
(09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital  
(09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital  
(02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital  
(02)272275

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital  
(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital  
(03)314111

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA  
INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT

This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) informa-  
tion department at the Queen

Alia International Airport Tel.  
(08)53200 where it should

always be verified.

Information on other flights are  
supplied on phone 08 (52700) or

08 (53250).

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

05:30 ..... Tel Aviv (RJ)

07:15 ..... Sanaa (RJ)

09:05 ..... Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)

09:20 ..... Beirut (RJ)

09:30 ..... New Delhi (RJ)

09:35 ..... Muscat, Dhahri (RJ)

10:00 ..... Colombo (RJ)

16:30 ..... Moscow (RJ)

16:35 ..... Casablanca (RJ)

17:50 ..... London, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:00 ..... Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

18:15 ..... Athens (RJ)

19:00 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)

19:25 ..... Rome (RJ)

23:15 ..... Larnaca (RJ)

01:00 ..... Bangkok (add) (RJ)

04:30 ..... Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

13:00 ..... Riyadh (SV)

13:40 ..... Sharjah (AH)

19:35 ..... Cairo (MS)

20:55 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)

20:10 ..... Beirut (ME)

20:40 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)

22:20 ..... Istanbul (TK)</







## Refusal to pass START-2 would cost billions — Perry

MOSCOW (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry warned Russia Wednesday that a refusal to approve the START-2 treaty would cost Moscow and Washington billions of dollars and would not delay NATO's spread into Eastern Europe.

"Reducing the number of weapons you have by half has to be a cost saver," Mr. Perry told reporters en route to Moscow for a visit during which he will testify Thursday to parliament in support of the treaty, ratified by the U.S. senate this year.

The state duma is expected to vote on ratification this year and Mr. Perry said rejection would cost the U.S. and cash-strapped Russia billions of dollars more to maintain strategic nuclear weapons at current levels than to further reduce their cold war stockpiles under the treaty.

"There are shutdown costs with closing down a missile programme," he conceded in response to hostility in the duma, the lower house of parliament, over slashing U.S. and Russian strategic warheads from 6,000 each

to about 3,000 each by the year 2003 under START-2.

"In the United States that (dismantling cost) is measured in several hundreds of millions of dollars. But the savings we estimate from the START treaty are measured in billions of dollars," Mr. Perry stressed.

The START-2 nuclear arms reduction treaty was signed in 1993 but there is now strong opposition in the duma and other circles to the treaty because of the cost and a feeling of vulnerability over the economic and military turmoil in Russia.

A Russian defence ministry official told Interfax news agency Tuesday the treaty would have to be amended before the duma would ratify it, but gave no details.

Mr. Perry, due to hold talks with Russian Defence Minister Igor Rodionov later Wednesday, said Washington would not allow the duma to use START-2 as a bargaining chip to keep NATO from extending membership to former Soviet bloc states, expected to initially include

Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

"I don't see a connection between these two issues," he said when asked about strong Russian opposition to the idea of extending NATO close to Russia's borders.

"The benefits of START-2 to both the United States and to Russia speak for themselves. And I will address them on that basis and will be prepared to defend and justify them on that basis," he said of Thursday's testimony to members of the duma.

"I think there are some misconceptions some of them have about START-2. I welcome the opportunity to try to deal with those misconceptions. For example, the view that START-2 is too expensive," he said.

Republican U.S. Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana and Democratic Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, travelling with Mr. Perry, also said Russian rejection of START-2 or a demand that the treaty be amended would be a financial and military setback for

both countries.

"Extending the time period (of START-2) does not save money, it simply extends the expense," said Mr. Lugar, who co-sponsored the Nunn-Lugar law which has provided \$750 million to Russia since 1992 to help reduce weapons of mass destruction and protect them from falling into the hands of terrorists.

"An amendment would take us back to the beginning and, I think, would be a real setback," added Mr. Lieberman.

Democratic Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia was flying to Moscow separately and was scheduled to travel with the others to a Russian naval base near the Arctic circle Friday to watch nuclear missile submarines being destroyed under the START-1 treaty.

Mr. Perry and the senators will also hold talks with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Thursday but it was not clear whether they would meet outspoken Russian Security Chief Alexander Lebed.

## Seoul welcomes U.N. statement on N. Korea

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea Wednesday welcomed a U.N. statement expressing "serious concern" over a recent North Korean submarine incursion, amid hints that Seoul may resume cooperation on a nuclear accord with Pyongyang.

The U.N. Security Council (UNSC) presidential statement was, however, a much-watered down version of the condemnation Seoul had been pushing for over last month's submarine incursion.

But the softer form won the crucial backing of the North's main ally, China, and for the first time in years set down in writing U.N. commitment to the 1953 armistice agreement, foreign ministry officials said.

Pyongyang last year repudiated the armistice agreement as a cold war relic, and has since warned of the risk of accidental war unless the United States, which has 37,000 troops in South Korea, signs a bilateral peace agreement.

"The statement by the UNSC president is judged as very significant in that the International Community, in the same voice, delivered a clear and stern warning message to the North," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

"It is expected to help block the North's attempt to

undermine the armistice," the statement added, as officials here conceded privately they hoped the submarine intrusion and its tense aftermath would not affect Washington's 1994 nuclear agreement with Pyongyang.

Under the 1994 Geneva accord the North froze its suspect nuclear weapons program in exchange for two 1,000 megawatt light-water nuclear reactors (LWRs), fuel oil supplies and improved ties with Washington.

The Sept. 18 beaching of the submarine with 26 armed men aboard some 100 kilometers South of the demilitarised zone and the ensuing angry war of words, dropped a spanner in the nuclear timetable which had envisioned construction beginning this year.

Seoul has said its members of an on-site Korea Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), the U.S.-led consortium charged with building the reactors, could not be expected to travel north because of the tension.

In Seoul Saturday U.S. assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord said it was understandable that "in the current climate it cannot be business as usual," but urged South Korea not to let the nuclear agreement, or the momentum, die.

A South Korean official, speaking on condition of

anonymity Tuesday, said Seoul needed only the "political" environment to return to some kind of normalcy and "assurances of their safety" before the technicians returned to the site.

"There is no better alternative to this (1994 nuclear deal) package," said the official, adding that the UNSC resolution was one step towards mollifying Seoul's anger over the submarine incident.

The safety assurance, he suggested, could be won privately through the New York-based KEDO channels.

Mr. Lord Saturday singled out KEDO talks with the European Union scheduled to open in Brussels Wednesday, as vital to the long-term financial viability of the agreement.

And KEDO Director Stephen Bosworth predicted Tuesday that "two or three rounds" should bring the EU aboard.

Mr. Bosworth said the talks would focus mainly on the participation of EU firms in business generated by KEDO, the EU role in decision-making and the extent to which the firms can expect to share in the commercial fallout from the \$4.5 billion deal.

EU members have said they would channel \$15 to 20 million annually into KEDO.

## U.S. plane to check possible North Korea missile launch

TOKYO (R) — The United States Wednesday sent an advanced reconnaissance plane to monitor the possible imminent test firing by North Korea of a medium-range ballistic missile into seas just off the Japanese coast.

A U.S. military spokesman in Tokyo told Reuters the modified C-135 aircraft was on station in the area to feed back information of any firing.

He said the high-altitude plane with the most up-to-date reconnaissance equipment was sent from the U.S. military base at Kadana in Japan's southernmost island of Okinawa.

An official from Japan's Self Defence Agency (SDF) told Kyodo news service a U.S. reconnaissance satellite had confirmed that North Korea had moved a launch platform for the Rodong-1 missile, capable of reaching a large part of Japan, out of the missile's assembly plant in eastern North Korea.

The Rodong 1, with a range of about 1,000 kilometres, is based on the Soviet Scud design used by Iraq in the Gulf war.

The official said North Korean observation ships were already at the scene of the missile's target area in the Sea of Japan. Kyodo reported.

Kyodo said Pyongyang has given no warning of an imminent missile launch, and neither U.S. nor Japanese defence officials are sure if the preparations in North Korea will lead to an actual test.

Japanese defence agency officials say there

were signs of North Korean preparations to test-fire a Rodong-1 missile in July but at that time there was no actual launch.

"Some defence observers suggest that the North Korean government may just be feigning a missile launch. Pyongyang has hinted of taking action against South Korea in retaliation for the South's handling of the North Korean submarine that ran aground on South Korea's eastern coast last month," Kyodo said.

Last week the London-based think tank, International Institute for Strategic Studies, said North Korea was likely to deploy Rodong-1 missiles later this year or early next year.

The London-based think tank also said North Korea was developing two longer-range missiles — the Taepodong-1 with a range of 1,500 kilometres and Taepodong-2 with a range of 4,000 kilometres.

Japan's Jiji news agency said a military delegation from the Middle East, apparently from Iran, was also at the launching site, and that North Korea planned the test-firing as part of a demonstration aimed at selling missiles to Iran.

In May 1993, North Korea shocked Japan by test-firing its Rodong-1 ballistic missile into waters just off the coast of the Noto peninsula in the Sea of Japan.

U.S. spy satellites caught the launch and tracked its trajectory, but Japan was caught off guard.

## Yeltsin to face operation in November — doctor

MOSCOW (R) — Doctors will operate on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's heart in mid-November, Interfax news agency quoted the head of the Kremlin Medical Centre as saying Wednesday.

"The operation on President Boris Yeltsin's heart will be carried out as planned in the middle of November," Sergei Mironov said.

Dismissing suggestions that the 65-year-old president had a blood problem which might prevent him having the operation, Mr. Mironov said: "There are no grounds to say that Boris Yeltsin is inoperable."

Mr. Mironov said that "elements of anaemia" — a shortage of red blood cells — were one of the main worries for doctors treating the president. The red blood cells play a key role in carrying oxygen around the body.

But he added: "Now this problem is gradually being solved and there are no blood supply problems which would make the operation impossible."

The treatment Mr. Yeltsin was getting had resulted in "positive changes" in the quality of his blood, Mr. Mironov said.

Mr. Yeltsin disappeared from public view just before he was reelected on July 3 and has spent much of the time since in hospital or at a sanatorium.

He is now resting at the Barvikha Sanatorium outside Moscow and preparing for an operation in which new veins will be grafted in to bypass blocked coronary arteries and improve the supply of blood to his heart.

Virtually non-stop rumours about Mr. Yeltsin's health have unsettled financial markets in Russia and the West and the Kremlin has frequently denied them.

Mr. Yeltsin was due to have talks Wednesday with President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus at Barvikha, where he has regularly been holding meetings.

Mr. Mironov told Interfax: "He is not only working constantly with documents but has working meetings almost every day."



Mick Jagger (right) poses with his wife Jerry Hall at a national music day celebration in London in 1991. Britain's tabloid press early editions late Wednesday reported that Ms. Hall has started divorce proceedings from the Rolling Stones lead singer and has consulted top divorce lawyer Anthony Julius, who negotiated Princess Diana's multi-million pound split from Prince Charles (Reuters photo)

## Mick Jagger 'may face divorce'

LONDON (R) — The wife of Rolling Stones' lead singer Mick Jagger, American model Jerry Hall, has consulted a top divorce lawyer, British newspapers reported Wednesday.

The top-selling Sun and other tabloids said Ms. Hall had been in contact with Anthony Julius, who negotiated Princess Diana's multi-million dollar split from Britain's heir-to-the throne Prince Charles.

Mr. Julius said Tuesday he had nothing to say about reports that Ms. Hall was initiating moves to end her six-year marriage to the rock superstar. The couple have three children.

"I have instructions from my client that I should make no comment in connection with this inquiry," he told the Press Association news agency.

That meant he could neither confirm or deny the reports, he said, adding that he did not believe any statement was imminent.

The reports of divorce moves are the latest of many stories that one of the most famous marriages in show business was under a cloud as a result of Jagger's

lifestyle. Earlier this year hall told an interviewer she never thought life with Jagger would last more than two years.

Jagger has deftly turned the Rolling Stones from being the 1960s bad boys of rock 'n' roll into a colossal business enterprise over the past 30 years.

He is now past his half century and older than U.S. President Bill Clinton, but his pouting, microphone-swinging swagger still fills stadiums, predominantly with middle-aged groovers high on nostalgia.

The Hyde Park free concert in London, the stabbing to death of a youth by Hell's Angels at a concert in California, Jagger's arrest for drugs and his wedding to Nicaraguan beauty Bianca Perez Macias in 1971 have provided enduring memories for a generation.

"They want you to be like you were in 1969," Jagger once said in a rare aside on age, not his pet topic. "They want you to, because otherwise their youth goes with you. It's very selfish but it's understandable."

From the raucous (I can't

get no) satisfaction and punchy jumpin' Jack Flash to the sardonic putdown of suburban valium abuse in Mother's Little Helper and the Elizabethan-style Lady Jane, Jagger's rasping voice is unique.

His sybaritic life and lyrics on sex and drugs fascinated teenagers and shocked parents. The 1960s bad boy is now one of Britain's richest men. Press reports in recent years have portrayed him as a family man keen on exercise, who sent his children to private schools and who had become a shrewd millionaire businessman far removed from the social rebel of his youth.

With houses in Manhattan, Mustique, London and France, he is — to quote a Jagger lyric — "a man of wealth and taste."

Jagger and Bianca divorced eight years after they married amid media speculation of a multi-million-dollar settlement. Bianca was awarded custody of their daughter, Jade.

Ms. Hall became Jagger's second wife in 1990. Jade made him a grandfather in 1992.

## France rebuffs U.S. over Africa row

PARIS (AFP) — The French foreign ministry said Wednesday it considered "closed" a row with the United States over controversial remarks by a minister about a U.S. tour of Africa, saying they would not be retracted.

"This affair is closed. There is no polemic," said spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt, referring to the dispute over a French accusation that an African tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was an electoral gimmick.

"We have already explained ourselves on this issue," he said, commenting on remarks by U.S. State Department Nicholas Burns, who said France should withdraw the comments by cooperation Minister Jacques Godfrain.

Mr. Burns Tuesday called for a retraction of the comments, in which Mr. Godfrain suggested Mr. Christopher's five-nation tour to Africa ending this week was an electoral ploy to woo black voters ahead of the Nov. 5 election.

"This was a ludicrous charge made by someone who has not paid attention to what the United States has done. It ought to be retracted," Mr. Burns said, although conceding that it was unlikely.

Mr. Rummelhardt continued Wednesday: "They know the esteem that (French foreign minister) M. De Charette has for his colleague and friend Warren Christopher, and we have a full appreciation of the international role of the United States."

"I thank Mr. Burns for his elegant appreciation of France's role in the world, and in particular in Africa," he said, referring to Mr. Burns' comments made along with the stinging attack.

The offending comments which sparked the row were made by Mr. Godfrain last week, when Mr. Christopher was in the middle of his African tour.

He said: "I welcome the fact that, after Washington cut development aid by 15 per cent, and after President Clinton has not been once to Africa, after he made no mention of Africa in his address to the U.N. general assembly, a few weeks before presidential elections, Africa becomes a priority of the American government."

## Timorese asylum-seekers evicted from French mission

JAKARTA (R) — Three East Timorese seeking political asylum were apparently rebuffed by the French embassy in Jakarta Wednesday, and diplomats said missions were being tougher on people trying to flee the troubled territory.

East Timorese sources said the three men, who slipped past security guards at the embassy early in the morning in a bid for political asylum in Portugal, were evicted from the mission.

A spokesman for the embassy said it was investigating the incident and was trying to contact locally-hired security guards on the night shift. He said he could not comment immediately on whether any Timorese had been evicted.

"I cannot say this is not true but we have not had a report about it," he said, adding any moral commitment they might have under the universal declaration of human rights, which guarantees the right of asylum.

Diplomats said it appeared some embassies were turning a blind-eye to how local security guards employed by foreign missions dealt with break-ins by East Timorese. Many of the guards have ex-military or police backgrounds.

Altogether 89 East Timorese have been granted asylum in Portugal after a series of break-ins into Jakarta missions since September 1995.

That, however, may now be at an end, diplomats said. "The tolerance level has gone right down. The security guards get to them first and nobody stops them," one diplomat said.

Another diplomat said it appeared embassies were turning any moral commitment they might have under the universal declaration of human rights, which guarantees the right of asylum.

Diplomats said that earlier this month five Timorese were removed from the Hungarian embassy after entering the compound.

A Hungarian diplomat said he did not know of the incident. The Dutch embassy however confirmed one of the five jumped the wall of the Hungarian embassy into the Swiss embassy before fleeing into the adjacent Netherlands mission in the early hours of Oct. 3.

"There was an attempt to enter a nearby embassy. On the run, one person reached the premises of the Netherlands embassy. From there, he was immediately removed for reasons of self-defence," Dutch embassy spokesman Ernst Schmidt said.

## 2-cents theft case drags for 11 years

COLOMBO (AFP) — A case involving the theft of crude cigarettes worth one rupee (two U.S. cents) has been dragging on before a magistrate in southern Sri Lanka for nearly 11 years, a press report here said Wednesday. The magistrate in the town of Matugama noted the case was the longest-running in Sri Lanka's legal history, the Sinhalese-language Lankadeepa said. Five people had been charged with breaking into a house and grabbing a bundle of "beedi," or rolled tobacco, in 1985. "The accused have been punished in a way by asking them to come to court for the past 11 years," Magistrate M. A. Silva said. He expressed surprise that the trivial case had continued for so long and ordered the final hearing for next month, the newspaper said.

## Poll: Hosting dinner is as stressful as dentist visit

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (R) — Many Americans find hosting a dinner party at home as stressful as preparing income tax returns or visiting the dentist, according to a poll released Tuesday. A Gallup Organisation survey showed that would-be dinner hosts particularly dislike the shopping, food preparation and planning for the event. The poll also said that many are insecure about their cooking skills. When asked to compare stress of preparing a dinner party, 34 per cent of the participants found preparing taxes as stressful, 31 per cent likened the stress to going to the dentist and 20 per cent said it was akin to having their mother-in-law visit for the weekend.

## Infatuated lover shaves girl's hair

VALLETTA (R) — A Libyan man infatuated with a Maltese girl cut off her hair so she would feel embarrassed if she left their apartment, the times newspaper said Tuesday. Mohammad Jomaa M. Sowaid, 21, of Tripoli, appeared in court Monday, accused of holding the young woman against her will, carrying a knife without a police permit and using violence to force the girl to submit to his will. The prosecutor told the court that Mr. Sowaid shaved the girl's head on Oct. 1 so that she would stay with him. Mr. Sowaid was conditionally discharged for 18 months and deported from Malta.

## Gamble wins Australian casino job

SYDNEY (AFP) — An appropriately named pay television executive, Neil Gamble, was appointed Wednesday as the new head of the Sydney Harbour Casino. Sydney Harbour Casino Holdings Ltd. said Gamble would take over as its chief executive after resigning as managing director of pay television company Australis Media Ltd. Casino Chairman Dick Warburton said in a statement Gamble had been chosen after a search throughout Australia and the United States. Sydney Harbour Casino is 24 per cent owned by U.S. casino operator Showboat Inc. Casino spokesman Peter Grimshaw said Mr. Gamble had far greater qualifications than just his name, having served as an executive with a number of major Australian companies. "We certainly don't think his appointment is a gamble," he told AFP. The temporary Sydney casino opened in September 1995 with 150 gaming tables and 500 slot machines. An estimated \$685 million permanent casino is due for completion in late 1997. It will have 200 gaming tables and 1,500 slot machines.



2-cents theft  
drags for 11 yr

COLOMBO (AFP) — A case involving the theft of 2 cents from a 11-year-old boy's pocket has dragged on for nearly 11 years in Sri Lanka. The boy, who was 11 at the time, was arrested in 1985 and charged with the theft. The case has been a source of embarrassment for the government, which has failed to bring the boy to trial. The boy's father, a police officer, has been forced to pay for the boy's legal fees. The case is now being reviewed by a high court.

Poll: Hosting  
dinner is as  
stressful as  
dentist visit

CHICAGO (AP) — A poll of 1,000 people found that hosting a dinner party is as stressful as a dentist visit. The poll, conducted by a local television station, found that 60 percent of respondents said they were stressed about hosting a dinner party. The most common sources of stress were the cost of the party, the need to entertain guests, and the pressure to make a good impression. The poll also found that 40 percent of respondents said they were stressed about a dentist visit. The most common sources of stress were the cost of the visit, the need to make an appointment, and the fear of the dentist.

Infatuated by  
shaves girl's

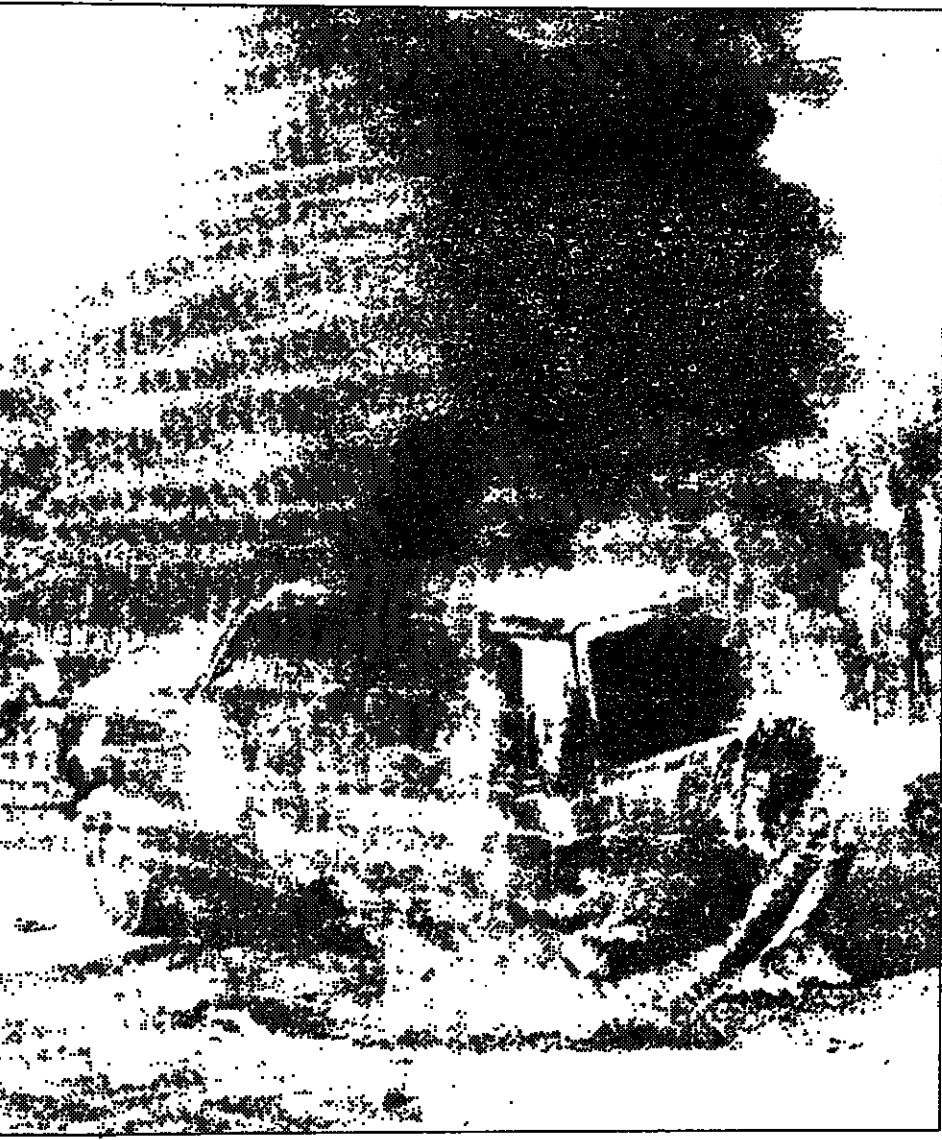
Gamble with  
Australian car  
job



Activists of the right wing Jamaat-i-Islami party remove a smouldering shell of tear-gas, fired by Pakistani police to disperse protesters in a Lahore street Tuesday. At least eight vehicles were burnt during a protest demonstration to stress several demands including denationalisation of educational institutions (Reuters photo)

### Pakistan arrest 200 students as unrest spreads

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — A police crackdown in the Pakistani city of Lahore netted more than 150 students protesting against the government's education policy and unrest occurred elsewhere as well, police and officials said Wednesday. Some 5,000 people protesting against a government decision to privatise education institutions in the Punjab province attacked police stations and also set



A government vehicle is set aflame by activists of the right wing Jamaat-i-Islami party in a Lahore street Tuesday. At least eight vehicles were burnt during a protest demonstration to stress several demands including denationalisation of educational institutions. Police fired tear gas to disperse the protesters and later arrested some 200 activists (Reuters photo)

ablaze about a dozen government vehicles, officials said.

Scores of people were injured in Lahore, the second largest city, when police tried to break up a demonstration Tuesday by Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), a youth-wing of the country's main opposition fundamentalist party, the Jamaat-i-Islami, witnesses said.

Officials said around 150 demonstrators were taken into custody while the JI said more than 200 youths had been arrested.

Witnesses said the students went on rampage when police stopped the demonstrators from marching to the official residence of the Punjab governor.

The protesters believe the privatisation plan would make education more costly and hurt the poor. The schools, which include a number originally owned by Christian missionaries, were nationalised in mid 1970s by the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's late father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Elsewhere, a school boy died in Peshawar, in the north west frontier province bordering Afghanistan, when he slipped into a canal Tuesday as police charged a crowd demonstrating against tuition fees imposed in provincial schools, police and residents said.

Students protests over the tuition increases also occurred in other cities in the province. Sources said scores of people had been arrested in the two week campaign by students against the government.

### Top U.S. Asia official makes low-key China trip

BEIJING (R) — The U.S. Government's top Asia official, Winston Lord, was to hold talks with Chinese deputy Foreign Minister Liu Huaqing in Beijing on a range of issues including human rights, diplomats said Wednesday.

Mr. Lord, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, arrived Tuesday for the unannounced visit and was keeping a low profile while in Beijing, a U.S. embassy official said.

However he was due to hold talks with deputy Foreign Minister Liu and a possible meeting with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen was on the agenda before Mr. Lord left Thursday for Japan, diplomats said.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Tuesday that Mr. Lord was preparing for a visit next month by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, but officials said a wide range of other issues would almost certainly be raised.

"Human rights will come up," one diplomat said. Washington last week sharply criticised the sentencing of dissident Liu Xiaobo to three years in a labour camp, as well as apparent plans to try another pro-democracy activist, Wang Dan, on the capital charge of plotting to subvert the government.

U.S. officials say relations with China have generally improved in recent months, but there have been frictions in the past two weeks over its treatment of dissidents and over fresh reports of

Chinese nuclear sales to Pakistan.

"I think all issues are on the table in (Lord's) discussions with the Chinese. It wouldn't surprise me at all if that issue of the alleged sale of items between China and Pakistan came up," Mr. Burns said.

Nevertheless, he said Washington continued to maintain that China had not violated past pledges with the sale, which the Washington Times said last week consisted of a special industrial furnace and high-tech diagnostic equipment.

Mr. Burns also said human rights issues were likely to be raised.

Diplomats said Beijing would almost certainly be angered by reports that Chinese dissident Wang Xizhe had arrived in San Francisco for asylum in the United States.

A row over human rights scared Mr. Christopher's last visit to China in 1993.

Mr. Christopher is due to visit China on Nov. 21-22 on a trip originally announced in July.

The visit would mark the highest point in relations since ties plunged after Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui paid a private visit to the United States in June, 1995 — a trip that enraged Beijing.

Both sides have said they are moving towards a possible exchange of presidential visits during 1997.

Mr. Lord came to China after a visit to South Korea to discuss tensions over the beaching of a North Korean submarine on the South Korean coast last month.

was no estimate of when the fire would be fully controlled, meaning it no longer posed any threat.

The U.S. forest service also announced that it was offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who set the fire eight days ago.

The fire has charred 25,590 acres (10,350 hectares) of trees and brush near Big Sur, an area popular with campers and hikers about 150 miles (240 kms) south of San Francisco.

"We anticipate that the acreage will continue to climb because we are burning out areas of unburned vegetation within the fire perimeter," Mr. Tobin said. This was done partly because of the danger that

unburned areas could ignite and spread the fire outside fire lines, he said.

The fire destroyed five homes, nine outbuildings, two travel trailers and two vehicles. Firefighting costs were expected to reach \$6.3 million, Mr. Tobin said.

He said the fire had been difficult to fight because it burned in very steep, rugged terrain with few roads.

## Clinton keeps cool under Dole's attack on integrity

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AFP) — President Bill Clinton shrugged off Republican rival Bob Dole's acerbic attacks on his integrity that seem to set the tone for Wednesday's final presidential debate.

Smiling and staying above the fray, Mr. Clinton merely responded by saying that he was more concerned with "issues, ideas, not insults," and would not be provoked during the televised debate in San Diego, California.

Mr. Clinton's calm stemmed from the widely held belief among his aides that personal attacks would likely backfire on Mr. Dole, since opinion polls show that most Americans dislike mudslinging campaigns.

The president also draws confidence from his huge lead in the polls. Three weeks before the elections, a USA Today-CNN survey gave Mr. Clinton a 54-36 per cent lead over Mr. Dole.

"No administration has shown more arrogance. Few have displayed more ethical failures," Mr. Dole told a business group at the California site of his last



Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole criticises the ethics of the Clinton administration during a speech to a Electronic Industries Association in San Diego Tuesday (Reuters photo)

face-off against Mr. Clinton Wednesday.

The 73-year-old former senate majority leader listed the real or imaginary scandals that have rocked the Mr. Clinton administration so far, including Travelgate, Filegate, Whitewater and the latest allegations linking him to improper campaign contributions from a wealthy Indonesian banking family.

Talking to reporters in Albuquerque, where he has been crumpling for his debate with Mr. Dole since Sunday, Mr. Clinton only made a vague reference to the scandals, saying that he looked forward to discussing the \$450,000 donation the Riedy family made to the Democratic Party.

Mr. Clinton said that if an error in any campaign contribution were to be found, the money would have to be returned, but he dismissed Mr. Dole's comments as "just politics," adding, "we'll have time to discuss that in the debate."

The president said his campaign spent "very little time worrying about our opponents."

Mr. Dole, who initially refused the low road despite calls from republicans to take out the sharp knives, stopped short of bringing up personal dirt — such as Mr. Clinton's alleged marital infidelities.

"I have never questioned anyone's private character and I will not start now," he said.

But Mr. Clinton campaign spokesman Joe Lockhart argued that Mr. Dole was trying to play it both ways and that the transparent ploy would not fly with voters turned off by nasty politics.

"What's clear from today's speech is the debate in the Dole campaign is over and the attack dog has been unleashed," he said in a telephone interview from Albuquerque.

"Three weeks from the election and he still can't give any one a positive reason to vote for him."

Oct. 6, Mr. Clinton has been sparring for three days with his aides, who have peppered him with questions in an attempt to recreate the upcoming debate.

Unlike the first debate in



President Clinton scratches his forehead while answering a question from the media during an afternoon press conference on American values and cleaning up violence on television in Albuquerque Tuesday (Reuters photo)

### African ministers put pressure on Burundi

NAIROBI (R) — African ministers cancelled a peace mission to Burundi Wednesday because its Tutsi military leader Pierre Buyoya refuses to negotiate with Hutu rebels, a Kenyan minister said.

The cancellation reflects a growing rift between Mr. Buyoya's isolated government and regional heads of state demanding a return to constitutional legality in Burundi where ethnic war has killed 150,000 people in three years.

"We have called off the mission following consultations. It is not opportune for us to go ahead with the mission. In the meantime the sanctions will continue," Kenyan Foreign Minister Kalonzo Musyoka said by telephone from the Tanzanian capital.

Regional states imposed a trade and transport embargo on landlocked Burundi on July 31 in response to a coup by the army that ousted President Sylvestre Ntibunganya, a Hutu, and installed Mr. Buyoya of the minority Tutsi tribe, which dominates the military.

At a summit last Saturday regional leaders rejected a suggestion by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to ease the embargo and gave Burundi one month to enter negotiations with Hutu rebels or face further sanctions.

They also decided to send a ministerial committee to Burundi to review a stated commitment by Mr. Buyoya to unconditional talks.

But Monday Mr. Buyoya's prime minister changed tack and said the sanctions had to be lifted before talks could begin.

Mr. Musyoka told Reuters that Monday's declaration by the military junta had jeopardised the mission.

"If Mr. Buyoya had the slightest respect for international opinion and the regional heads of state, then his government would not have issued the statement rejecting talks," Mr. Musyoka said. "The ball is now really in his (Buyoya's) court."

In Bujumbura a spokesman for the presidency expressed surprise at the cancellation, saying Burundi would guarantee the group's security — a concern raised by Tanzania.

"If they do not come, it won't be for reasons of security because there is security here and we can guarantee their security," Ferdinand Ndayabenda told Reuters.

Hutu rebels of Leonard Nyangoma's National Council for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD) said Mr. Buyoya's stand was a clear indication he had no intentions to sue for peace.

"We know Mr. buyoya is a trickster. He is not committed to peace in Burundi. He has a programme to expand his army and fight Hutus to the last man but we are ready for him," CNDD Africa spokesman innocent Nimpagarise told Reuters in Nairobi.

### Japan polls forecast LDP win, but caution remains

TOKYO (R) — Japan's big newspapers Wednesday forecast outright victory for Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in Sunday's general elections, but politicians on all sides said the contest was still too close to call.

Voter surveys at the weekend showed Mr. Hashimoto's Conservative Liberal Democratic Party was likely to win 251 seats — a simple majority in the 500-seat lower house of parliament — while its main rival Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) would lose seats, the liberal daily Asahi Shimbun said.

Conservative dailies Yomiuri Shimbun and Sankei Shimbun, and the moderate Mainichi Shimbun, reported similar survey results, reinforcing a trend in which the LDP's well-oiled machine has gained strength during the 12-day campaign.

The Asahi cautioned, however, that more than half the voters it surveyed had not made up their minds. Pundits said choices made by floating voters — including abstention — as well as the weather on election day, were still key variables.

"The surveys are a very crude measure of what could happen — not least because it appears a lot of voters will not make up their minds until election day," said John Neuffer, a political analyst at Mitsui Marine Research Institute.

Reacting to the rosy projections, LDP Secretary-General Koichi Kato told party support groups not to let down their guard or let

turnout fall.

"Staying away from polls thinking the LDP is home safe is tantamount to giving half a vote to the opposition," Mr. Kato told supporters at party headquarters.

Shinshinto officials dismissed suggestions that the tide was turning against them, reminding party members that they prevailed against similar odds in last year's elections for the upper house of parliament.

The LDP's surge draws on its strong lead in the 300 first-past-the-post constituencies, the key component of the new electoral system under which the election is being fought.

The LDP, which ruled Japan unchallenged from 1955-93 then after a brief period out of power came back as the dominant partner in a coalition government from mid-1994, has more than 180 "safe" candidates with strong support bases, Asahi said.

The party was also expected to perform well in the remaining 200 seats contested by proportional representation in 11 regional blocs, it said.

By contrast, Shinshinto, the only opposition party fielding enough candidates to oust the LDP, was in danger of falling below the 160 seats it held when parliament was dissolved last month, the Asahi said.

Shinshinto, another conservative party, was expected to do well in the proportional representation part of the polls, but trailed the LDP in single-seat districts, it said.



## Jordan Times

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### Jericho trip makes history

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's visit to Jericho on Tuesday must be the strongest message yet that Jordan, which was bound by a union with the West Bank between 1948 and 1967, no longer coveted a return of the former relationship.

Palestinians and Arabs have always had doubts, fuelled by Israeli and American determination to deny the Palestinians their national rights, that Jordan wanted to circumvent the Palestinians' right to self-determination and to a state of their own. Since 1988 when Jordan severed its legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, Jordanian leaders have been constantly repeating that Amman had no ambitions in the West Bank despite continuous Israeli pressures on Jordan to substitute for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in efforts to seal the fate of the occupied territories and their inhabitants.

It is of course not untrue that different politicians in Jordan, for different reasons, advocated and pushed for a return to the pre-1967 union between the East and West Banks. Jordanian personalities of Palestinian origin, in particular, saw in the PLO either a political threat or they did not trust nor hold much respect for them. The Islamists, who until recently were dominated by West Bankers and who saw in the secular PLO and its more radical factions an impeccable foe to their own programme of Islamisation, also resisted the Jordanian regime's inclination to distance itself from efforts to solve the Palestinian problem without the PLO. The Islamists feared that a more secular Palestinian state across the river would by extension weaken their standing in Jordan and elsewhere. In addition, security-minded officials, who in the late 1960s and the 1970s had to confront a more radical PLO, are still worried, that the new Palestinian National Authority might one day become as militant as the PLO was before and that a Palestinian regime would in the future exploit the Palestinian element of the Jordanian population to destabilise the country.

All these are of course legitimate concerns at least in as far as the way those groups perceived the future. But the regime, always more informed and better placed than its components to decide what is in its best interest, saw many dangers inherent in going along with these schools of thought. Not only would that have put Jordan in a collision course with the Palestinian leadership and the Arab World — which in 1974 resolved that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people — it would also have been a recipe for internal strife in the Kingdom.

Hence, the King's visit to Jericho, the city which the Kingdom's founder, the late King Abdullah, used as his winter capital. The King was very careful and very precise in saying that he was standing on the land of the Palestinian state, the strongest message yet that Jordan sends to the Palestinians to assure them that Amman fully backed the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.

Jordan is of course aware of the Likud's opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state at a time when at least half the Israeli people and almost the rest of the world are in favour of such an eventuality. Perhaps more importantly the Jordanian people are also supportive of the creation of a Palestinian state, although they all hope and wish that afterwards Palestine and Jordan will find some form of unity between them.

Meanwhile, by carefully holding its cards on both the Palestinian and the Israeli fronts, Jordan has demonstrated that it can play an important role in its immediate region. If Jordanian politicians then aspire to assume a greater role for the country, they need to simultaneously use their good offices with both neighbours to secure an end to the plight of the Palestinian people. A stronger alliance between Jordan and Palestine will certainly serve the cause of peace and the vision of a new Middle East.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i Wednesday discussed the United States' opposition to the reelection of Boutros Ghali for a second term as secretary general of the United Nations under the pretext that he is unable to carry out reforms at the world organisation. Ghassan Abdul Khaleq said that if any damage to the U.N. has been done it came from the United States which has been blackmailing it and exercising pressure on its members with a view to guaranteeing that American views prevail all the time and in every question debated by the U.N. member countries. By refraining from paying its share to the U.N. annual budgets and by threatening to resort to the right to veto every time the Security Council intended to take decisions unfavourable to Washington and its allies, the U.S. has damaged the world organisation's credibility, prompting its member nations to demand reforms of its systems, continued the writer. In the world community's views, the required reforms aim at enabling the U.N. to establish justice worldwide but in Washington's views, the required reforms entail giving America further powers to dominate the world, said the writer. Mr. Ghali is, of course, not the ideal person for the post of secretary general but, said the writer, it is surprising to see America behave in this manner against a person who had condoned U.S. transgressions and repeated violations of the U.N. regulations.

### The View from Academia

## Mideast peace — notes on the status quo

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

IN A way, we are living the worst of times; but, I would say, we are also living the best of times. There is — on the basis of what has happened recently in the Middle East, what is still happening, and what is likely to happen — room for disappointment, pessimism and even despair. But there is also, on the same basis, room for hope, optimism, and rejoice. It all depends on how you look at things.

On the negative side, there have been, since the advent of the Likud and its allies to power, many serious setbacks to the peace process. For one thing, you have a prime minister (Netanyahu) who wants to renegotiate what has been negotiated thoroughly and painfully and agreed upon. For another, you have him deliberately abandoning the most fundamental of peace principles, land for peace, and boring us day after day with insupportable, hollow, elusive and irritating expressions, such as "peace for security", "reciprocity", etc.

In fact, if what James Zogby says in his column "Breaking Clean" (Jordan Times, Sept. 25, 1996) is true, then Netanyahu's ultimate objective is to disrupt the peace process, through dragging us into empty, circular rhetoric, and take the region back to the endless no-war, no-peace situation with which the Middle East has been plagued for decades. Judging from what we have been hearing from him in the past six months, there is much to corroborate what Zogby reports: so far, Netanyahu is essentially, in the words of the poet John Dryden, no more than a "prophet of tautology" — impressive words which boil down to nothing.

The timing of Netanyahu's advent to power was really bad (this is one of the vices of democratic systems). After the initial procrastination and bickering in the early nineties, the peace process, sporadically and slowly throughout the Rabin era and somewhat more speedily in Peres's short reign, started moving at the right pace. Peace became a reality, and much of the talk was focused on normalisation, joint projects and specific details.

Where are we now? Certainly not back to square one (even though Netanyahu, through insisting on meetings without preconditions and new premises in the peace process, through the opening of tunnels and through the expansion of settlements, seems to want to take us back to point zero), but back to procrastination, bickering, double dealing, and (naturally) violence.

The seven days of violence a few weeks ago in the occupied territories in which many Palestinians and some Israelis lost their lives (or were injured and crippled) is a

tragic reminder of how far we are from true peace yet. Hell broke loose, and the Israeli devil, which we (somewhat naively) assumed was buried for good, rose from the grave again to haunt, taunt and scourge.

A couple of days ago, the physician supervising the treatment of a number of Palestinians injured in the said incidents and who are now being treated in Amman said that most of them were seriously injured and most would be crippled for the rest of their lives. Why should such young men end up paralysed and crippled for life after the peace agreements have been signed? The reason is simple: someone is reneging on the promises and the agreements, and someone does not want to live and let live.

So far, the Netanyahu government has spoiled and disrupted not only peace on the ground but peace in the minds and hearts of people, for both Arabs and Israelis alike. Worse still, it is resuscitating and promoting old hostilities and fruitless arguments and unbridling the gaps which have been bridged, undoing what has been done. Peace with Syria and Lebanon looks further than ever. Israel's relation with Egypt is more tense and strained than it has ever been; the implementation of trade agreements Israel signed with Arab countries has been frozen. Warm peace with Jordan has somewhat cooled off. What has been done for years looks almost totally undone now.

Viewed from such angles, the picture looks pretty dismal.

A careful examination of the overall situation and the development of events (on the more positive side), however, reveals much that is heartening and reassuring. Look, for example, at the feeling of solidarity that has evolved, partly as a result of what has been achieved in the peace process and partly as a reaction against the subversive efforts of the hardline Israeli government. Take, first, the recent Washington summit. Despite the reservations about it, it clearly shows a strong commitment to peace on the part, especially, of Jordan, the Palestinian National Authority, and the U.S. Take also Peres' visit to Arafat and Weizman's visit to Cairo (and the latter's intended visit to Jordan). Take, again, the stand of the Israeli demonstrators against the hardline policies of Netanyahu and their attempt to block the tunnel. Take the position of the European community whose commitment to Mideast peace is stronger than ever. Take also the strong position of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, etc. And last but not least, take His Majesty King Hussein's historic visit to Jericho and the impressive moral and psychological impact it has had

(and will have) — an impact already reflected in the warm welcome and feelings of appreciation His Majesty has received.

All these examples show that the peace process is alive and well (despite the attempt to subvert it), that the forces of goodness and peace are as strong and determined to see the process through as ever, and that the enemies and procrastinators of peace are isolated and outcast. To see His Majesty in Jericho is something which may not have been even thought of seriously five years ago. To see Peres walking side by side with Arafat expressing commitment to peace and Weizman in Cairo affirming support for the peace camp is not an ordinary happening.

The more reassuring, but perhaps still not so visible, thing is the likely consequence of such solidarity. Eventually, such solidarity will force the hardliners and the procrastinators to take a stand this way or the other. The way I see it, there are two choices for the Israeli government: either to continue with its intransigent, elusive and negative position, cause more suffering and procrastination, but ultimately reach a dead end and bring itself down, or adopt a more realistic, practical and healthier approach and join the peace camp (either through a coalition with the Labour and other peace-wanting parties in Israel or solely by itself). Netanyahu has to choose between being a devil and an apostle of peace.

Nothing surprises us anymore in the Middle East. Just as former soldiers have turned staunch peace makers, extremists and hardliners can soften their position — primarily, for their own survival. It would not really be so surprising for Netanyahu to "surprise" us, live up to the challenges of the times, realise the tremendous implications of what peace means, and start delivering and contributing more constructively.

Until this happens, solidarity among the supporters of peace in the region and the international community should continue to assert itself. Coordination among the Arab countries themselves and among the Arab countries and the peace advocates in Israel must continue. The Palestinians should make the utmost use of King Hussein's regional and global influence. They should rely more on him and coordinate more with him. The admiration both peoples and governments in the region and abroad have for him is an asset which can be capitalised upon to create the necessary momentum for peace to happen.

## AIDS: Who pays for the cure?

By Gwynne Dyer

"BY TEN years from now, I hope a drug or a vaccine will be found," said Sam Okware, a senior Ugandan health official. "Health education alone can't solve this. We need a one-shot cure."

Sam Okware said that back in 1990, when one in eight Ugandans was afflicted with the AIDS virus. Now, one in two is. The average Ugandan's life expectancy, once projected at 59 years, will be down to a mere 32 years by 2010 if the AIDS epidemic continues unchecked.

But Okware's hope was not misplaced, and even his timing was good. In another five years, there probably will be effective anti-AIDS drugs and vaccines on the market. The problem is that they will cost more than the average African can afford — and it is getting clearer and clearer that Africans are AIDS's main victims.

Recent research reports, published in August in the journals "Cell" and "Nature" and last month in "Science", have identified a mutation in the gene called CCR5 which apparently confers absolute immunity to AIDS on those who inherit it from both parents.

Even having just one copy of the mutant CCR5 gene may give some protection against infection by HIV, and it certainly slows the progress of the actual disease. HIV-positive American homosexuals having only one mutant gene lived an average of three years longer than those with none. But only people of European descent seem to have this mutation.

A single copy of the mutant gene appeared in 17 per cent of white Americans tested (though only between one and two per cent had the double mutation that confers complete immunity). But not one of the Africans living in Africa who were tested had even one copy of the mutant gene.

This particular genetic mutation is unlikely to account for all or even most of the difference in HIV infection rates between Africans and others. Other genetic factors not yet uncovered may also play a role in making AIDS an African plague, and so may non-genetic factors, like customs, culture and sheer poverty.

But the brutal fact

remains that around half the people dying of AIDS in the world are black, though people of African descent account for only about 10 per cent of the world's population.

**"The African continent itself has well over one-third of the world's HIV-positive people. The worst-hit countries in the Western hemisphere are Haiti (where almost everyone is of African descent) and Brazil (where at least 40 per cent are). In the United States, where only 12 per cent of the population is black, half of all the new AIDS cases are African-Americans."**

The African continent itself has well over one-third of the world's HIV-positive people. The worst-hit countries in the Western hemisphere are Haiti (where almost everyone is of African descent) and Brazil (where at least 40 per cent are). In the United States, where only 12 per cent of the population is black, half of all the new AIDS cases are African-Americans.

So it is Africans, above all, who stand to benefit from the new treatments now looming on the horizon. But most Africans are very poor, and the new drugs will be very expensive.

The new protease-inhibiting drugs that were unveiled at last summer's AIDS conference in Vancouver seem very effective at keeping HIV infections in check, and even rolling back the symptoms of full-blown AIDS. But their annual cost is \$15,000-\$20,000 per person — and the average income in Uganda is under \$1,000 a year.

The new drugs that might be developed exploiting the CCR5 mutation are even more interesting, since they offer the prospect of stopping the spread of the disease. They could be cheaper, too, since they might resemble the one-shot vaccine Sam Okware dreamed about. But pharmaceutical companies have to recover the costs of their unsuccessful research projects out of the selling price of the relatively few successful drugs, so an HIV vaccine would still be priced well out of reach of the average African.

So does the average African get the vaccine anyway?

We have not faced this problem before on such a huge scale. By and large, nobody complains that

high-cost medical care (heart bypass surgery, chemotherapy for cancer, etc.) is only available to the rich in the Third World. On the other hand, low-cost vaccines that can save mil-

lions of lives (smallpox, for example) have been distributed freely. But what about a high-cost vaccine that can save tens of millions of lives?

Suppose we are talking

about the course of vaccinations against HIV infection that costs around \$200 per person. Then to protect most Africans who are at risk would cost between \$50 and \$75 billion. Not to

that kind of money come from?

One option is for the drug companies themselves to decide that while others must pay the full price, Africa gets the drugs at cost. (Successful big-selling drugs are usually produced for 10 per cent or less of the selling price). But don't hold your breath.

Another alternative is that the rich countries will all chip in to pay the pharmaceutical companies the full price for immunising Africa. If you are still holding your breath at this point, you are running a serious risk of asphyxiation.

Or maybe Africans will simply take matters in their own hands. South Africa, the one African country with a home-based pharma-

ceutical industry that could produce that kind of drugs, might simply decide to go ahead with making and distributing the drugs throughout Africa at cost, and to hell with the patent laws.

"It would be the right thing to do on humanitarian grounds, and it certainly would do wonders for Pretoria's influence elsewhere in Africa. What's more, the big drug companies would realise that bringing legal proceedings against South Africa would be a public-relations disaster that could even lead to further regulation of drug-pricing policies at home."

In fact, I will bet that three or four years from now, South Africa is going to do exactly that — and will get away with it.

### LETTERS

#### Golden cage

To the Editor:

IT IS evident that Jordan Television is taking bold steps to enhance its image and provide a better and more competitive service to its captive audience, many of whom cannot afford to buy satellite dishes.

One of these signs is the introduction of the new "Nabil and Hisham" comic show, which, I believe, has gained extreme appreciation from the Jordanian public for its bold and courageous approach.

However, I was extremely shocked to hear the reaction from Parliament on the content of the programme and that the deputies are threatening to take legal action unless they get a public apology from the writers of the programme. This is the last place in town one would expect to hear such a reaction from.

As our Parliament is supposedly the guardian of free speech and expression, which I believe is the cornerstone of any democratic process, I strongly urge JTV to listen to the real public opinion, expressed by its audience, and decide that The Nabil and Hisham show will not go the way of "The bold and the beautiful".

Amjad Tadros,  
Amman.

#### Honouring commitments

To the Editor:

WHEN I was a medical student at Glasgow University, Scotland, United Kingdom, during the years 1961-1968, I met several Jewish students attending various courses of study at that university. All of them were British citizens, but they still felt, as I did, very uneasy when we discovered that we had different and opposing views about the Arab-Israeli conflict. Our initial reactions were consistently not to have anything to do with each other. But in the course of seven years at the university, there were a few occasions when I had some discussions, often very heated, with one or more of those Jewish students. They would argue that Israel, as a democratic country was unlikely to start negotiations with the aim of making peace with Arab countries, all of which have autocratic forms of government, because if the leader of one Arab country should be toppled, his

successor might rescind all the agreements reached with his predecessor.

I must say that the argument had made a lot of sense at that time, especially when they cited as example the unity that had been accomplished between some Arab countries and that was subsequently annulled when things changed in one of the two countries after a coup d'état.

Many years later, Israel signed a peace treaty with Egypt, the largest Arab country, and a few years later, the Egyptian president, who had signed the peace treaty with Israel, was assassinated; yet his successor did not call for cancelling the treaty. Israel was thus encouraged to work towards additional treaties with other Arab countries; subsequently, the Oslo agreements were reached with the Palestinians and a peace treaty was signed with another very important Arab country, i.e., Jordan.

We all know that the treaties were signed between the then democratically elected government of Israel, and the legitimate and very popular leaderships of both Jordan and the Palestinians respectively.

What is ironic is that another democratically elected government in Israel takes over, and the first thing they want to do, is to refuse to implement the agreements signed by their democratically elected predecessors. In fact, they are behaving in such a way as to antagonise not only the Palestinians, but all the Arab countries combined, including of course Jordan and Egypt, with which they now have full peace.

Oh how I wish I could, nowadays, be brought together with those students at Glasgow University, just for a time long enough to show them that it is not democracy, per se, that provides for consistency in the behaviour of governments, but that honouring the words and deeds of our predecessors is all what counts.

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The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



# Weekender

Jordan Times, Thursday, October 17, 1996 A

## Society on the Move

### Why reinvent the wheel, the British ask

Two Jordanian ministers are in the U.K. each taking a look at how the British do it. Privatised that is. Minister of Information Marwan Muasher left for London Monday to see first-hand how the British government fares without a ministry of information, how the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) experience has evolved, and how Her Majesty's government and the media manage their relations. On his full itinerary are meetings with senior officials of the Foreign Office News Department and the 10 Downing Street News Department, which set up an office for the prime minister and foreign minister and another office which drafts position papers for the government. Names of some high-powered persons he will meet are BBC Chairman Christopher Bland, Member of Parliament and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Director of the Middle East desk at the Foreign Office John Shepherd, and head of the News Department at the Foreign Office Nigel Sheinwald. Dr. Muasher is also scheduled to be interviewed by Khairallah Khairallah of the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat. The visit to London itself emerged from a meeting between the minister and British Ambassador to Jordan Peter Hinchcliffe. The minister, who will be back in Amman on Saturday, has plans to do away with the Ministry of Information. Officials say Britain is willing to share its experience in cutting back on government involvement and opening the way for private sector entry into several sectors — media is one of them.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan extends her hand to Japanese artist Fumio Kitaoka during last week's opening of his exhibition of wood block prints at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts. Mr. Kitaoka's works hang in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the Warsaw National Museum, the British Museum and the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, among other prominent museums, galleries and private collections.

**ALL ABOARD:** Another area in which British-Jordanian cooperation is slated for upgrading is transportation. One day following Dr. Muasher's departure to London, Minister of Transport Nasser Lawzi was on his way there too. Mr. Lawzi's mission — to look at the British endeavours into the privatisation of railway and public transport systems. In early September British Minister of Construction at the Department of the Environment James Clappison was in Jordan heading a delegation of construction industry bigwigs. The team of builders paid a visit, inter alia, to the Ministry of Transportation, after which Mr. Clappison invited Mr. Lawzi to England. Mr. Lawzi's agenda is packed with meetings and site visits as well. It includes tea at Parliament House with Mr. Clappison, a meeting with John Watts, MP and Minister of State for Railways and Roads at Department of Transport, and another with Director General of Export Promotion at the Department of Trade and Industry Ray Mingay. Attending several of the scheduled meetings will be John Blackwood, who promotes trade between Jordan and Britain. Mr. Lawzi



Rotary Club District Governor for the Middle East Tawfiq Kassar (fourth from left) welcomes former Hartsdale-New York Rotary Club President Barton Guttat (fourth from right) Tuesday to a meeting to discuss the implementation of the "Gift of Life" programme in Jordan. The programme offers children with life-threatening heart ailments an opportunity to receive surgery and treatment at participating U.S. hospitals.

**A PRIVATE PLEA:** Here on a private visit is Minister of Health of the Chechen Republic Omar Khanbayev, who is being hosted by the Society of the Friends of the Chechen Republic as well as the Jordanian Committee for the Support of the People of the Independent Caucasian Chechen Republic, of which former Minister of Public Works Sa'id Bino is president and chairman. Dr. Khanbayev is on a humanitarian mission which has taken him to Turkey, is scheduled to land him in Iran, and pending the issuance of a visa, also to Saudi Arabia. While visiting Jordanian health care facilities and medical societies, and during a meeting with Minister of Health Aref Bataineh, Dr. Khanbayev has been telling officials about the suffering of his people and the need for rehabilitation of the republic's hospitals. He has brought with him a video depicting the current state of the main hospital in Grozny. According to Mr. Bino, the skeletal frame of the 700-bed facility has remained sturdy, but the hospital has suffered severe damage. Dr. Khanbayev is seeking help and looking also into the possibility of transporting many of those Chechens wounded in the fighting with Russian forces to hospitals here and in the region for treatment. The minister has never visited Jordan before, and was moved to discover that Mr. Bino's father immigrated here from the same town in Chechnya where he himself is from. He is scheduled to return to Istanbul on Friday in transit to Tehran.

**WHO'LL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH?** It didn't take

much to get the gander of a few deputies up, in fact just two episodes of "Ahlan Hukumeih (Welcome Government)" was enough to infuriate them into demanding apologies from several of those connected with the stage to screen political comedy show of Nabil Savalha and Hisham Yanis. It appears that while the Prime Minister and Minister of Information, who were themselves instrumental in encouraging the airing of the popular show, were not miffed by their characterisations in several of the episodes' scenes, some deputies most definitely were. They took their grievances to Lower House Speaker Saad Hayel Sour, who took up their position and demanded the apologies. The timing was off however, as at Saturday's press briefing Minister of Information Marwan Muasher told the media that he saw no reason why anyone should take offence at the contents of the show, and if they had, he apologised. One of the show's script advisors, Iyad Kattan, a former director of the Royal Cultural Centre and who now has his own talk show, said the point of the exercise is that all public officials are fair game, a policy which lends itself to the democratic experiment. But some observers find that the show could do with a more sophisticated humour in some scenes and that some of the portrayals tended to be crass rather than funny. Official comments were hard to come by. The show, in any case, is still slated to air at the same time and same place.



Two Korean models perform a dance customary during Korean wedding ceremonies and celebrations at last week's "Wedding Traditions" show. Organised by the Pakistani Embassy in cooperation with the diplomatic corps in Amman the show was a sell-out, and funds raised, while still being tallied up against the show's expenses, will go to help the work of the Young Muslim Women's Association.

tonight.

**TALKING NEAR AND FAR:** While comedy becomes a matter of opinion, it appears there is no stopping the flood of talk shows hitting the JTV airwaves nowadays. Samir Mutawa began hosting a recorded show in which he brings in about three guests from Jordan and two or three others via satellite from different parts of the world to tackle political issues from various viewpoints. A comment from one guest speaker on the show is that the discussion should be allowed to last two hours. The show is crowded into one hour; two would allow editing of incidental nuisances such as the host interrupting the speakers or difficulties with satellite connections. This one is an expensive and difficult endeavour according to officials, but Dr. Mutawa is an old hand at radio and television in Jordan as well as with the BBC in London, and is thus expected to fare well among the T.V. talk circuit. His show is called Ar'a wa Shakiyat (Opinion and Personalities) and airs on the Arabic channel at 10:00 p.m. on Fridays.

**TAKIN' IT TO THE STREETS:** Perhaps the promised shutdown of the Ministry of Information is what has got Jordan News Agency, Petra, Director looking for an additional career, this time in television; or perhaps it is his knack with folks who sometimes feel left out of the big picture. Whatever it is, Abdullah Uroun has already begun filming his new talk show, to air on Friday evenings. He takes his camera and sound crew out of Amman and into the nation's governorates for regional debates with representatives of the local communities as well as the establishment for what one official described as "a sort of regional parliament." So get ready to hear what pains and pleases the man (maybe even the woman) on the streets of Madaba, Salt, Karak, Tafleh and Ma'an, to name a few.

**MOVIN' ON UP:** Continuing in a regional vein, the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB), a government entity which grants loans to the municipalities, has a new secretary general. He is Hamad Kasasbeh, who succeeds Zuhair Khalifeh after the latter's six years in the seat. Dr. Kasasbeh has much to celebrate these days. His hometown of Al', near Karak, which was visited by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, was recently upgraded from the category of smaller administrative district to district governorate. The premier's visit was upon the invitation of former Islamic Action Front Deputy Ahmad Kasasbeh (Dr. Kasasbeh's cousin) who abstained from voting during the confidence vote on the Kabariti government. The first-hand look at Al' did the residents well. Now their area will be entitled to wider services and a bigger cut of the budget.

**RESETTLED:**

For fans of Palestinian Diaspora singer Ibrahim Azzam there is good news. The popular vocalist and accomplished oud player has relocated from London to Amman. Life there was beginning to get a bit too distant for Mr. Azzam and his wife Hayat, and Amman seemed like a quieter, more secure place to bring up their four children, Muna, 18, Azzam, 17, Dina, 14, and Bassam, 10.

Hailing from Turshisha, with ancestry traced back to Husn near Irbid, the singer of Arabic classical and popular songs left Palestine in the early 70s because Israeli authorities had a particular aversion to the Palestinian singer. He set his sights west, seeking to explore the democracy, freedom and vastness of the U.S. By 1976 he settled down in London. Mr. Azzam's 25-year singing career has made him a star in Palestine and Europe. He has made many friends in the entertainment industry, including the late Mohammad Abdul Wahab, who is said to have considered Mr. Azzam's "one of the best voices in the Middle East." The singer came to know British actress Vanessa Redgrave and American vocalist Chris Kristofferson, with whom he shared the stage at London's famous Albert Hall. For Mr. Azzam coming to Amman was also a career step in that he believes there are more opportunities for him to perform in Cairo, Beirut and Damascus. His hope is that living in the Arab World will bring him back home.



Ibrahim Azzam

Jennifer Hamarneh

## Galliano to take over at Dior, McQueen at Givenchy

PARIS (AFP) — Britain's John Galliano is to take over as top designer at Dior and his place at Givenchy will go to another young British designer.

Alexander McQueen, the two fashion houses announced Monday. Galliano replaces the Italian Gianfranco Ferré, whose summer collection shown last week ended an eight-year relationship with the flagship house of the world luxury goods leader Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessey. Givenchy also belongs to LVMH.

The swashbuckling 36-year-old plumber's son from Streatham, South London, only showed his first collection for Givenchy last January.

But since Ferré's departure from Dior was announced in the summer, there has been intense speculation that he could be a front contender for the job.

Among the other names banded about were France's Christian Lacroix and Jean-Paul Gaultier, and

American Marc Jacobs, while Britain's Vivienne Westwood told the French press she had approached Dior herself to express an interest.

But it rapidly emerged that Galliano had been lined up for the position and it increasingly looks as if his time at Givenchy had simply been part of the grooming process.

Galliano, who was born in Gibraltar in 1960 sprang to fame with his graduate collection "Les Incroyables" from Central St. Martins School in London in 1984.

He was invited to tea by the woman who was to become his muse, Lady Amanda Harlech, then working at Harper's Bazaar, now the wife of a Welsh peer and mother of two children.

She described him in a recent interview as mysterious and strong and said it was like working with an artist.

Invitations to his own show this season came on

silver charm bracelets tucked inside Russian "Matriochka" dolls while a warehouse was transformed into a circus in outer Mongolia, with real trapeze artists, gypsies and fortune-tellers. The spectacle was typical of Galliano's magical vision.

Alexander McQueen, the 27-year-old son of a London taxi driver, is also a graduate of Central St. Martins and has often been dubbed as Young Galliano.

His show, which had models wading through several inches of water, was hailed as the highlight of London's fashion week this season.

Paunchy and with something of a reputation for surlyness, he was spotted behind stage at the several major shows in Paris last week and told various members of the press that he was definitely taking up the Givenchy offer. However rumours persisted that he was agonising over the decision.

He told the American

trade paper Women's Wear Daily that his first concern would be his own company, which is backed by Gibo, the subsidiary of the Japanese onward Kashiyama.

"Givenchy would be a lot of money but I'm not really into that. Plus Paris does nothing for me."

"If they employ me they are employing Alexander McQueen..." At the end of the day I will be truthful to myself," said McQueen, whose hero is the legendary Balenciaga.

However in an interview with Le Monde he was generous about his predecessor, the aristocratic Hubert de Givenchy, apparently put under pressure to retire to make way for Galliano.

"He was very intelligent with what he did and in the spirit of the time. I share his love of fabric and lines, but we belong to different epochs."

Givenchy's more genteel customers, if any are left since Galliano took over, could be in for a rough ride.



French fashion house Christian Dior, one of the world's most prestigious labels, announced October 14, the appointment of Britain's flamboyant John Galliano as its new designer. Galliano, 36, replaces Italian Gianfranco Ferré after only one year with rival French fashion house Givenchy (Reuter photo)

## Do not disturb

By Jean-Claude Elias

DON'T YOU sometimes wish you are alone? I mean really alone, completely isolated with no one to talk to, no phone to answer, nobody to ask you to do or say anything and no external noise to bother you? We all definitely do feel like that every now and then.

No matter how communicative one can be, there are moments when one needs calm, tranquillity and privacy. We all disconnect the phone sometimes. Soon we may have to disconnect our PC too to have some quiet.

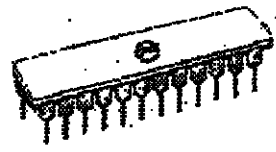
There are basically two ways to operate your computer — as a stand-alone or in a network. A stand-alone PC is a machine that is not connected to any other computer. A "networked" machine is linked to other computers either via local cables (Local Area Network — LAN) or via modems. In a LAN configuration the access is limited to PCs that are relatively in a close neighbourhood, typically up to 100 or 200 metres. With a modem one can communicate, through the standard telephone network, with any computer on Earth that is also equipped with a modem, however distant it can be.

It would be irrelevant to mention here all the different methods or protocols of communication between computers. The most widely used and publicised of them being, you may have guessed, the Internet. But it's not the only one.

Whatever the technique, once your PC is connected to other computers, you're not alone anymore. Naturally one has always the choice to switch off the communication device, whether modem or other. Experience shows however that once one has acquired the technique and the equipment, one takes the option to stay connected as long as possible.

In "Copycat," the 1995 thriller starring Holly Hunter, Sigourney Weaver and Harry Connick Jr., Weaver plays the role of a criminologist who becomes completely agoraphobic after she escapes a traumatic murder attempt. She doesn't leave her house anymore and her main link with the outside world becomes a computer that remains permanently connected to the outside world. The system doesn't only channel sound, text and graphics to her, but also live video images of whoever she is in contact with, thanks to tiny cameras placed on top of the PCs' screen. Similarly she can be heard and seen by the one on the other side. After nearly driving her mad with its unwanted "spying," the computer eventually helps her solve the mystery and catch the serial killer.

## chip talk



The above example doesn't belong to science fiction. The Visiophone or Videophone PC, as it is now called, has become reality. Provided one has the small, inexpensive camera, a fast modem and the necessary software, seeing live images of the person you are talking to is now possible. American telephone companies have been announcing the wizardry since the fifties but never fulfilled their promise — the computer industry has. The technique has been used since the late eighties by large corporations who could afford it. It is now available to mortal PC users. It is currently commercially advertised by Quantex and by famous chip maker Intel, jointly.

Having one's PC connected to other systems presents fascinating, limitless possibilities and an equal number of problems, just like a simple telephone does, but to a much bigger extent. For the time being we have only an idea of these problems. Analysts however predict that they will undoubtedly increase and that new ones will appear in the near future. Information Technology consultant Bob Metcalf recently said in InfoWorld: "I predict the Internet will... catastrophically collapse."

Many PC users have taken the bold decision to keep their machine as stand-alone, with absolutely no link to other computers. By doing so they avoid unpredictable virus attacks, annoying external interference, unpleasant messages, unwanted electronic junk mail, and most of all they keep their files and data well protected from damage or theft. But they also lose a wealth of information and possibilities that only external networks can offer.

Do we cherish our privacy enough to keep our PC disconnected or are we willing to take all risks and reach the world? Perhaps we can reflect on this thought by German writer Günther Grass (b. 1927): "Information networks straddle the world. Nothing remains concealed. But the sheer volume of information dissolves the information. We are unable to take it all in."

## JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, October 17, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	5:00	News Flash
2:05	Iris, Ovid & The Gang	5:02	Our World Their World — Documentary
2:30	Take Your Pick	5:15	Search And Rescue
3:00	Covington Cross	6:00	French Programme
3:30	Feature Film	7:30	News Headlines
5:00	News Flash	7:35	Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
5:01	Cont. Feature Film	8:01	Auto — Classics
5:50	French Programme	8:30	Album Show
	Entertainment Varieties	9:10	Blackie's Magic
7:00	Le Journal	10:00	News In English
7:15	Magazine — Atomes Crochus	10:30	Madson
7:30	News Headlines	11:15	Miami Vice
7:35	Pacific Station	12:00	Yes, Minister
8:01	American Chart Show		
8:30	Material World		
9:10	Kung Fu		
10:00	News In English		
10:25	Feature Film		
12:00	Taratata		

Friday, October 18, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	Iris & Twinkle	2:05	Muppet Show
2:30	Play About (Flintstones)	2:30	The Bold And The Beautiful
3:00	See How They Grow	3:00	French Programme
3:30	French Programme	4:00	Nature's Inventions
4:00	Crystal Maze	4:30	Hey Dad
5:00	News Flash	5:00	News Flash
5:01	Name Your Adventure	5:02	Destiny Ridge
5:15	French Programme	6:00	French Programme
5:30	Envoye Special	7:30	News Headlines
7:00	Le Journal	7:35	Roseanne
7:15	Magazine — Allo La Terre	8:01	Disaster Chronicle — Documentary
7:30	News Headlines	8:30	Cinema, Cinema
7:35	Growing Pains	9:10	The Lazarus Man
8:01	Secret Weapons	10:00	News In English
8:30	Hunter (Police Drama)	10:30	Return To Love Dove
9:10	Virtual Reality (Science Fiction)	11:15	Bodies Of Evidence
10:00	News In English	12:00	Dad's Army
10:30	Classic Movie		
12:00	Family Matters		

Saturday, October 19, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	2:00	Holy Koran
3:05	Adventures Of Mickey And Donald	2:05	Budgie
2:30	The Bold And The Beautiful	2:20	Adventures On The Rainbow Pond
2:45	Just The Job	2:30	I Love Lucy
3:00	French Programme	3:00	French Programme
4:00	Gillette (Sports)	4:00	At The Zoo
4:30	Chris Cross	4:30	Alf
5:00	News Flash	5:00	News Flash
5:01	Futures	5:02	Fun With Physics
5:15	Blue Heelers	6:00	French Programme
6:00	French Programme	7:30	News Headlines
7:30	News Headlines	7:35	Murphy Brown
7:35	Something Wilder	8:01	Magazine Zero — One
8:01	Documentary — New Literacy	8:30	Encounter (Local Talks Show)
8:30	Prism (local Talk Show)	9:10	Star Trek
9:10	Lois And Clark	10:00	News In English
10:00	News In English	10:30	China Beach
10:30	Mini Series — Best Seller	11:15	Mission Impossible
12:00	Feature Film — Born On The Fourth Of July	12:00	Are You Being Served
	Starring: Tom Cruise & Willem Dafoe		

Sunday, October 20, 1996

2:00	Holy Koran	2:00	Holy Koran
2:05	Fievels Americans Tails	2:05	Muppet Show
2:30	You Bet Your Life	2:30	The Bold And The Beautiful
3:00	French Programme	3:00	French Programme
4:00	World net	4:00	Documentary — Earth Revealed
4:30	The Famous Five (Comedy)	4:30	Blizzard Island
		5:00	News Flash
		5:02	The Adventures
		5:30	Kelly
		6:00	French Programme
		7:30	News Headlines
		7:35	The Four Seasons
		8:01	Super Stars Of Action
		8:30	Challenges
		9:10	N.B.A. Basketball
		10:00	News In English
		10:30	Bugs
		11:10	Hart To Hart
		12:00	Who Is The Boss?

## A comeback...in no uncertain terms

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

ONE CURIOUS phrase to have emerged in spoken language in recent times is "I hear what you say." Another peculiar aspect to do with this phrase is that even though it sounds free, candid and sincere, it is by miles far from being so. This is simply because it does not mean what it implies at first sight.

What it means in layman terms is "I am receiving what you say through my ears." Because of this, it can be the obvious answer to the question put by, say, someone in a house who has been talking to his companion in the next room for five minutes and suddenly has a cold feeling that this companion cannot even hear him.

It could also be in response to a question put by someone in the back seat of a car who has a sudden suspicion that the driver has heard nothing she has said since she got in the back.

In such situations, one may ask, "Can you hear what I am saying?" And the other person — if they ever get to hear the question in the first place — says: "Yes, I hear what you say."

So far, it is all very straightforward stuff. But, this is not how the phrase is used today. It is used by people who are close to each other physically and far apart in every other way.

In real life, when a person says, "I hear what you say," he means, "I hear what you say but I disagree with it so totally that I am not even going to bother considering it. In fact, I have already forgotten it." This, unfortunately, is the way in which many of today's debates are conducted: By exchanging chunks of assumed ideas.

While a debate should consist of speakers listening to one another, considering each other's arguments, and quite possibly changing their minds, what normally happens nowadays is that everyone hears what the other says and then ignores it completely.



Language, generally, is full of such phrases which all mean: "I have courteously kept quiet while you were speaking, but I am about to ignore everything you have just said, because what I am about to say is the only truth there is."

Here are a few such phrases to keep you entertained for the time being:

- "Yes but..."
- "Yes, I catch your drift, but..."
- "I take on board what you say..."
- "I see what you are getting at..."
- "Nevertheless..."
- "So what you are saying is..."
- "What we have to remember is that..."
- "We must not lose sight of the fact that..."
- "Notwithstanding..."
- "At the end of the day..."
- "In the real world..."

Knowledge of this working list will come in handy if you ever hear more than five of them in a conversation or ever experience sensations of not being taken seriously.

If such situations should ever occur, may I suggest that you walk away, especially if you were the one doing the talking.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### AMAZING FACTS

\* Did you know that we all dream every night? Some of us remember them and some don't. And we move about 40 times in our sleep. Poor sleepers as much as 70.

\* Yes it is, in fact, I bet you might have yawned already whilst reading this. When your body is tired, your respiratory system slows down and a spasm in the muscles of your throat takes place, forcing you to take in more air — hence a yawn!

\* What have a lady aged 35 and a man aged 65 in common? — Almost equal muscular strength.

\* The Japanese had a unique way for telling the time. They invented a "clock candle" which had a different scent for each section that took one hour to burn through.

### 2. Give one word for:

- a- A violent, lightning raid meant to bring a speedy victory.
- b- Handing over a fugitive by one government to another for justice.
- c- A term used by Winston Churchill in 1946 denoting the close-circuit formerly empire of Soviet Union i.e. keeping everything secret and sealing itself off the rest of the world.
- d- Government run by the rich few.
- e- Affirmation in all faiths, showing no official patronage to any religion/s.

### 3. Name the authors of these books:

- a- Les Miserables
- b- The Divine Comedy
- c- Sons and Lovers
- d- Candide
- e- Candida

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

\*\* That doesn't apply to you. **Hatha la yasree alaiki.**

\*\* She is up a tree. **Ennaha fee ma'ziq.**

\*\* I act according to plan. **A tasarrafa hasba al-khutta.**

\*\* I want something superior to that. **Oreed shay'an afdal min thaalek.**

\*\* We learn through our errors. **Ennana nata'allam min akhtaa'ena.**

\*\* I'm going to my office. **Enni thaahib ela maktabi.**

\*\* I've come here on business. **Laqad hadart ela bona fee mohimma.**

\*\* Let's go for a swim. **Hayya bina lis-sebaha.**

\*\* What's the time by your watch? **Mal'waqt hasba saa'atik?**

### ARABIC PROVERBS

\* "When fate befalls, the mind is blinded." Transliteration: Etha waqa'a al-qadar, ameya al-basar. Meaning: Reasoning is of no avail when the fated event happens.

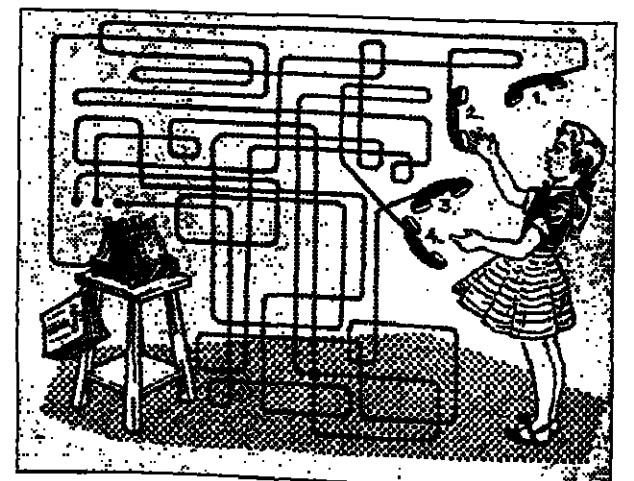
\* "Tie a donkey where its master tells you to." Transliteration: Orbot al-himar matrah may' qollaqa saah-bo. Meaning: The owner or the master knows what is good for it better than anybody else. Or, do not question the sagacity of one who knows better.

\* "Eating, grazing and doing nothing." Transliteration: Akl, wa mar'a, wa q'il let sana'a. Said of a man who does not work.

### PUZZLES

#### (A) TELEPHONE TEASER:

Can you guess which of the four receivers is connected to the telephone? Trace each one, in the order of your choice, until you make the connection. Good luck!



#### (B) SOLVE-A-PROBLEM:

Tom is running after Jerry, who is 78 feet ahead of him. However, Tom runs 11 feet while Jerry is running only 9 feet. How many feet does Tom run before overtaking Jerry?

### TEST OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What do you know about? — Escorial, Adam's Bridge, Billingsgate, Al Aqsa.



## RENDEZVOUS WITH ART

# Inner turbulence shrouded by tranquillity-in-colour

### Art works resembling topographical pictures of planet Earth reveal artist Samira Abdul Wahab's conception of contemplation and dialogue

By Mahmoud I. Mufti

"DEEP INTO the darkness, peering, long I stood there, wondering, fearing, doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before," wrote Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849). A century and-a-half later, the simultaneous sense of soliloquy and drama engendered by the artworks of Iraqi artist Samira Abdul Wahab, circumscribes — by means of the richness and complexity in configuration, colour and texture — an implied philosophical matrix, re-miniscent of the ephemeral notions of darkness, wondering, fearing, doubting and dreaming, articulated by Poe, in his literary work, "The Raven."

The creative potential provided by this artist's works to the viewer — in the realms of "dreaming, discovering, interpreting and interacting" — is staggeringly enormous and challenging. However, avid interpretation it most certainly requires, making it a delight to the diligent visitor, but something of a Pandora's box for the meek, faint-hearted caller-by and the lazy Thursday-afternoon socialite.

This matrix collectively generates and exudes an aura of diversified human susceptibilities. Consequently — though with the exception of the element of humour — most facets of the human condition are evoked: Tranquillity, tragedy, serenity and rage. The chief mental articulations of the inner-self are likewise engaged: Reflectiveness, contemplation, pensiveness and humdrum monologue. Binding this conglomeration of elements together, are the interactionary variables of dialogue and inquiry.

Inherent in virtually all of the artist's 20 oil-and-collage-on-canvas paintings, are the requisite components of duality and astral juxtapositionality, rendering parlance and spatial dialogue possible. Ms. Abdul Wahab — also director of the cele-



Iraqi artist Samira Abdul Wahab

brated "Gallery Baghdad" in the capital city of twin rivers — sheds light on her perception of her work and her thought-process during the crafting and genesis of her works: "I have recently been under substantial duress; a condition in which I am most receptive to creative and aesthetic inspiration. In truth, the issue goes well beyond mere duress; paradoxically, when I am exposed to (and immersed in) suffering, the single aspect in me that somehow evades depletion and debilitation is the artistic one. On the contrary, my artistic sensibilities find themselves becoming much more

**First impressions of the work may plausibly allude to great temperamental composure, but beneath the crust, an abyss of turbulence looms ever keen**

acute and heightened. My motivation and incentive succumb to a similar predicament — odd as it may seem."

The artist, pausing impetuously — and intently contemplating one of her works (one with a prominently-furrowed and ridged collage-surface) — thereupon resumes her oral footage and expounds:

"This proclivity occurs to the extent that an inward state of bliss and serenity actually exercises an influence in 'artistic-pathway-blockage' and restricts my creative wherewithal and innovative output to a relatively insignificant minimum ... and because any major artwork I produce occurs in the former state (i.e. distress), the sense of rage and turbulence, so to speak, becomes apparent in a sizeable portion of my work. In fact, it becomes an inherent and characterising feature. The colours, textures, theses — and the interplay between all three — are the most vivid indications of this

congruity, the essence therein — underneath the shroud of serenity — is one of raging eruptions and stir-boiled emotions. First impressions of the work may plausibly allude to great temperamental composure, but beneath the crust, an abyss of turbulence looms ever keen.

In attempting to reconcile these two mutually-implacable forces — (or so it would seem) — the artist sites that we, as human beings, have an eternal need for an "inner tranquillity of the soul." But because this phenomenon has come to be associated with extreme temperamental comfort — and necessarily, therefore, a comfortable tune and pace of life — the perception surrounding it (i.e. the phenomenon) portrays it as verging on the static, unvarying and stagnant. Quick to interject, the artist asserts that beneath the delicate froth of such appearances, a dynamism of near-virulent potency lurks. Moreover, the two should not be understood to occur sequentially with respect to each other — rather, simultaneously and complementarily. Therein lies the impending duality in the works!

One would be forgiven, at this juncture, for voicing the need to fit or contain these hitherto unharmonisable elements — (inner-turbulence, and inner-tranquillity) — in a neo-comprehensible paradigm. The artist, evidently aware of the first smatterings of desperate confusion felt by this viewer, proceeded to offer further insights into these complex phenomena: "My conception of inner-tranquillity here, refers to a state of deep and vivid contemplation on the part of the perceiver: a state of inward pensiveness that commences with the individual, gravitating its way to infinity; a process. Dialogue is the essential cornerstone of this process. This could be a dialogue between oneself and one's inner-self ... and it may well be a silent discourse.

On the other hand, it could be a dialogue between two distinct states



One of the works by Samira Abdul Wahab currently on display at Balladna Gallery

or entities of consciousness: the self and another ... between a man and a woman; a mother and her daughter. Such dialogues are intensely impregnated with myriad human sentiments, such as those of loss and remembrance, estrangement and indignation, remorse and bitterness, infliction and affliction, rage and inquiry ... pleading, yearning, existentialist inquiry!

All these sentiments

and others — housed at the very core of Man's being — are represented, in my work, by the multitude of colours used, effectively transforming the usage of colours (in this manner) into a language; an instrument for the conveyance of dramatic calamitous predicaments. And yet, the inner-tranquillity referred to, was able to nestle in afflicted peoples' realities with all the poise and dignity normally ascribed to it, begrudging

no one, nor drawing grudge from anyone ... despite the nature and extent of the transgressions."

However, this all-important inner-tranquillity remains conditionally composed and can be thought of as a stage of dormancy, likened to the perfectly still air and water right before a torrential storm; not a single ripple or hint of a breeze. It is a psychological crucible incubating a dor-

mant volcano that is, as yet, untriggered. As long as a certain threshold of human tolerance is not exceeded, the volcanic potential is kept at bay. There are times, however, when human dignity simply must surface and prevail....

The exhibition, at Balladna Gallery (Wafi Tell Street) may be visited throughout the morning and the afternoon till 7:00 p.m.

## Henry Miller met his match in Japanese singer

By Allen Wan  
Reuter

TOKYO — She was the "devil" in his writings, the inspiration for his paintings, and the woman who tormented one of America's most controversial erotic authors for years by blunting his sexual advances.

Henry Miller was already 74 in 1966 when he began a long and tortuous pursuit of Hoki Tokuda, a brash Japanese chanteuse who had just arrived in Los Angeles to play piano at the Imperial Gardens Restaurant in Hollywood.

Tokuda, who was by then in her early thirties, was brought together with Miller by the latter's passion for ping-pong. A mutual friend was looking for a playing partner for Miller, who was crazy about the game.

"I was performing and someone came up to me to ask me if I could beat this old man in ping-pong. So I said 'why not?'"

"He had very bad legs, eyes and ears, but was still a good ping-pong player. But his style was very bad. He would put his body on the table and wouldn't move," Tokuda said.

Miller was immediately smitten by the Japanese

beauty and came to the restaurant every night over the next two years, hoping to convince her to become his fifth wife.

At the time, Tokuda was unaware of Miller's notoriety. The Tropic Of Cancer, his most renowned work, was banned in the United States for nearly 30 years for its graphic depiction of sex. It later became an instant bestseller. To this day, however, she admits to never having read any of his books.

"He proposed to me on the first day that we met and started telling everyone that he was my fiancee," she said. "I made excuses every day and tried not to see him. It was like that for a year and a half and he became even more crazy about me."

Tokuda told Reuters in an interview. They were eventually married but the 11-year union remained strictly platonic, a source of great frustration for the incurably romantic author. "He couldn't have a normal sex life. There were physical reasons. I also told him I didn't like that kind of thing," she said.

She became a literary footnote as the "devil" in

Miller's short story Devil At Large, which she describes as depicting a man "who falls in love with a young Japanese girl who doesn't care about him and gives him the 'itch' every night."

The fact that she did not fit the traditional profile of a Japanese woman was another source of distress for Miller, who had romantic images of Japan as a land of Samurai and Geishas. Tokuda was educated in international schools in Tokyo and in Canada.

Tokuda, who now runs a glitzy bar in Tokyo's fashionable Roppongi district, said she had intended to marry Miller for only "a couple of years" to get him off her back. But life with the free-spirited writer was fun, except when the occasional wife showed up. "It was so much trouble after we got married because he failed to divorce a couple of them," she said.

Anais Nin, an old lover from Miller's days in Paris as an expatriate writer, was also living in California and would drop by. Nin, the famous third in the ménage a trois with Miller and his second wife as depicted in the feature film Henry And June, was a really "classy lady," Tokuda said.

Miller's remaining years were devoted to his paintings, which took on a violently erotic tone following his marriage to Tokuda.

The 1971 painting entitled Do You Hate Me?, which he dedicated to Tokuda, contains images of naked women.

By the time of his death in 1980, Miller had completed several thousand water-colours, many of which he gave away as gifts. Original artworks are now highly prized and can command thousands of dollars.

"He never sold any of the paintings. For instance, he would give away three paintings to a doctor instead of paying money," Tokuda said.

Much of Miller's letters and artwork that Tokuda collected over the years has been donated to the recently opened Henry Miller Museum of Art in the Japanese city of Omachi, the only museum of its kind dedicated to the author.

She credits the work of a devoted group of Miller fans in Omachi for making the museum a reality. Although he never visited Japan, Miller was fascinated by the Orient, as reflected in



Hoki Tokuda, widow of American writer Henry Miller, plays the piano at the Lost Angels bar which she runs in Tokyo's Roppongi district. She was the 'devil' in his works, the inspiration for his art, and the one who would deny one of America's most controversial writers about sex, his just due (Reuter photo)

his writings and artwork.

"He had two fortune tel-

lers who told him not to go to Japan," Tokuda said.

"Maybe they felt that he would have liked Japan so

much that he might stay forever."



# Transcendental meditation, clergy come to workplace to fight stress

By Cristiana Fabiani  
Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON — An increasing number of U.S. companies are turning to transcendental meditation and clergy to help reduce employee stress, which statistics show continues to rise.

Some 40 per cent of U.S. companies now offer some method of stress reduction to their employees, up from 27 per cent in 1985, according to U.S. government figures.

And polls show workers need it. A 1995 survey by Chicago-based International Survey Research Corp. showed that 44 per cent of employees said they were overworked, up from 37 per cent in 1988.

One aspect of stress is job security: 46 per cent of those surveyed said they worried about losing their jobs, up from 22 per cent seven years earlier.

One survey indicates stress hit white-collar

employees more than their blue-collar counterparts. The Gallup Organisation found 28 per cent of white-collar workers said they were subject to daily stress at work, compared with 20 per cent for blue-collar workers.

While many companies settle for handing out brochures on stress reduction, others have taken a more spiritual path as transcendental meditation and company chaplains are shown to help workers reduce ten-

sion. Spiritual nurturing for workers can be expensive. A chaplain can cost some \$50,000 a year plus expenses, while meditation courses cost \$1,500 per employee; moreover, workers are generally encouraged to meditate or receive counselling on company time.

But companies using the methods say the benefits outweigh the hefty costs. Three years after offering meditation courses to employees, chemical firm R.W.

Montgomery recorded a 120 per cent increase in productivity, an 85 decline in absenteeism and a 70 per cent drop in occupational injuries.

And the payoff has also markedly improved the bottom line: Montgomery's profits have surged by 520 per cent in the past three years.

A study published in the August issue of hypertension, the journal of the American Heart Association, showed that meditation

reduces arterial tension significantly more than other types of relaxation exercises. Other studies show meditation can improve blood flow to muscles and reduce cholesterol.

Transcendental meditation is generally practised twice a day for 20 minutes. Meditators sit with their eyes closed, listening to sounds that help free their spirits and relax their bodies.

Transcendental meditation has been used in the Hindu religion for hundreds of

years, and was popularised in the United States in the 1960s by the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi.

Marketplace Ministries Inc., suggests a different kind of spiritual guidance. The company places chaplains — mostly Evangelical Protestant, but also rabbis and Buddhist monks — with U.S. firms around the country.

The United Auto Workers Union hired five full-time chaplains and has 300 religious volunteers at plants of

the United States' three top automakers.

Workers burdened with work- or family-related problems, including drug or alcohol abuse, now turn to these chaplains for guidance they may be lacking.

Official figures on the number of spiritual guides in the workplace are unavailable, but Reverend Diana Dale, president of the National Institute of Business and Industry Chaplains, estimates the number at 4,000.

## Study links smoking to vision loss

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Smokers have a greater risk of losing their vision to a condition known as "age-related macular degeneration," or AMD, according to two studies in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

One study, conducted on 31,843 women between the ages of 50 and 59 — all of them registered nurses — was part of a nurses

health study in Boston, Massachusetts.

The women were followed for 12 years, with information on their smoking habits updated every two years.

Researchers found that the women who smoked 25 or more cigarettes a day were more than twice as likely to develop AMD, the leading cause of blind-

ness in people aged 65 and older.

A similar study conducted on men produced similar results.

"Results of this study provide prospective evidence that smoking increases the risk of developing AMD," the article said of the first study.

It found little reduction in risk of developing the disease even after smokers

quit for 15 or more years. In the second study, on men, the researchers said there was an increased risk for past smokers but that it was not as great.

Both studies factored out other habits that could contribute to the disease, such as poor diet and the presence of cataracts, researchers said.

## Virtual worlds used for real therapy

By Janet McConaughy  
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Imagine a world where you cannot screen out background noise, and the volume control is always on high. Or a world where colours have sound. Or one in which a tight touch feels like sandpaper, or fire. Or one where everybody else insists that very different objects are really the same.

This is an autistic's world. When the sensory chaos becomes overwhelming, autistic children may try to escape with a sudden dash in any direction. A heightened sense of touch may make it impossible for them to tolerate the usual parental street-corner restraint of walking hand-in-hand.

So how do you teach the skills needed for a safe crossing? Dorothy Strickland tried virtual reality — a three-dimensional, 360-degree "world" created in a computerised helmet.

Virtual reality is better known as therapy for phobias. That is an obvious march, bringing a new level of "reality" to a long-used procedure: Having patients imagine themselves in more and more threatening situations, until they are comfortable facing the threat itself.

"Autism is one of those areas where it seems that virtual reality matches in a way that is strange," said Dr. Strickland, who now spends more than half her time on word-recognition research at North Carolina State University.

Autism somehow interferes with the normal development of the brain. It affects not only the senses but the abilities to reason, interact with others and communicate, and to distinguish one object or sound from the background of the rest of reality.

"If they're looking at something, they may cover their ears. If they're listening, they cover their eyes," Dr. Strickland said. "Most people with autism never learn to describe what they see, because they never learn to speak. But it may be like looking at the world through a magic eye image that never pops out at you."

Virtual reality lets the therapist create an immensely simplified world, made up of only what the patient is to be taught.

Two years ago, using this technique, Dr. Strickland taught two children, Shannon Bedford, then 7, and Robbie Bradley, then 9. Skills she taught included walking to a stop sign, looking for cars, recognising cars, following their motion, crossing only when the cars have passed.

Ms. Strickland's street is simple and gray. The car colours are those the children recognised — for Shannon, only red and blue.

There was no way to teach them to explain what they saw. Their actions spoke for them. If the monitor showed a car passing by and Shannon turned as it passed, she was watching the car.

Ed Bedford learned something about his daughter: Her lack of eye contact did not mean lack of attention.

"With children with autism, often one of the perceived weaknesses is making eye contact," he said. But, he discovered, Shannon did not look straight on at things.

"When she tracked cars, she didn't track it out of the centre. We just saw the nose of the car, and she would track it across the screen."

Shannon learned the car-tracking skill in 12 five-minute sessions in the helmet, reinforced by work outside.

Dr. Strickland is among a double handful of people who are testing virtual reality as therapy for a wide range of problems including phobias, Parkinson's disease, attention deficit disorder, mental retardation and eating disorders.

She and others discussed their work at a recent computer graphics conference in New Orleans.

Dr. Strickland noted that her attempt to use virtual reality with autism is in a very preliminary stage. There have not yet been any controlled studies to see how virtual reality compares with therapies already in use, and only a very few people have been studied at all.

"We need more study. Does learning take place? How does it translate into the real world?"

Dr. Strickland hopes to test those questions with a half-dozen children, using a portable computer, inexpensive virtual-reality goggles and a programme designed to teach the names of common objects: Chair, Table, Cup.

An autistic child may learn that the red wooden chair in the kitchen is called "chair," but be unable to understand that the word also describes the flowery overstuffed armchair in grandma's living room or even the blue wooden chair in her brother's room.

Computer graphics can easily change a picture's size, shape, colour and spatial orientation, so a portable computer can teach a lesson that otherwise might require a furniture showroom.

Ed Bedford, whose daughter Shannon participated in the first test of whether virtual reality could teach autistic children, said he and the other participant's mother, Thea Bradley, had hoped for more.

"We thought they could experience a trip to a baseball game or a doctor's office... but the programming wasn't up to that level of details," Mr. Bedford said in a telephone interview from Raleigh, North Carolina. However, computer graphics are becoming ever more detailed.

Such things as doctor's visits — if not too complicated to grasp — might help autistic children adjust to new surroundings. Activities often have difficulty with change and want their routines to be absolute.

"For our children often times, the first time is worst. Once they understand what's going to happen, how long it will last and that it will be over with, it's much easier," Mr. Bedford said.

One problem with virtual reality is that it can take a long time to readapt to the real world after extended periods in virtual worlds where one's abilities are different.

In addition, extended periods in virtual reality can damage one's sense of balance. Dr. Strickland limits work with autistic children to five minutes at a time for that reason.

## U.S. sees dramatic drop in crib deaths

By Mike Cooper  
Reuters

ATLANTA — Cases of sudden infant death syndrome dropped more than 18 per cent in 1995 as parents learned not to let their babies sleep face down, but black infants suffered "crib death" more than twice as often as white infants, U.S. federal health officials said.

The U.S. Centres for Disease Control (CDC) said the rate of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) had declined 30 per cent since 1992, when the American Academy of Pediatrics began urging parents to place children on their back or side to sleep.

"Although the declines were dramatic in both black and white infants, in 1995 blacks were 2.4

times more likely to die than white infants of SIDS. This represents the biggest gap in the rates" since 1983, said CDC epidemiologist Suzan Carmichael.

Over the past decade, the SIDS rate for black infants decreased 10.4 per cent and the rate for white infants fell 16.7 per cent. The rate of SIDS among infants rose slowly but steadily during the 1980s, but began to fall more than five per cent a year in 1990, the CDC said.

Preliminary data indicates there were 3,279 SIDS deaths in 1995, an 18.3 decrease from the 4,073 in 1994, Dr. Carmichael said. More than two-thirds of last year's deaths were among infants one to three months of age.

A national "back to

sleep" campaign launched in 1994 emphasised that parents should not let their babies sleep on their stomachs and said that infants should be given a smoke-free environment.

A study last year found that the percentage of infants sleeping prone in the U.S. fell from 78 per cent in 1992 to 43 per cent in 1994.

"It is very encouraging to see that prone sleeping prevalence has declined so dramatically and that decline does coincide with the dramatic declines in the last few years in SIDS," Dr. Carmichael said.

"Other countries have also seen that large declines in SIDS mortality have coincided with large declines in prone sleeping," she said.

Crib deaths had been the second-leading cause of infant mortality since 1980, but have now fallen to third place. Deaths from congenital anomalies rank first, while disorders related to short gestation periods now rank second.

In a separate report, the CDC warned that the death of an infant should only be classified as SIDS after an autopsy and an investigation of the scene of the child's death.

The agency found many infant deaths in Washington state between 1980 and 1994 had been classified as SIDS even though no autopsy had been performed.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

NUMEROLOGY  
By Alan Olshwang

ACROSS

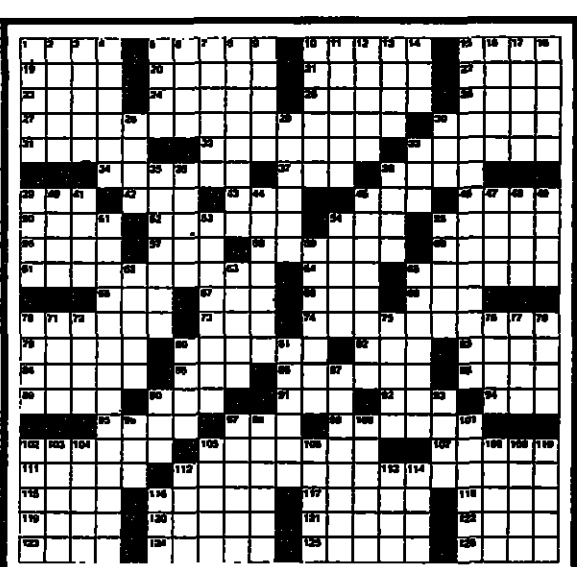
- 1 King of the kitchen
- 2 Bull's head
- 3 Bull's head
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DOWN

- 1 Intensive
- 2 Place of refuge
- 3 Authorship
- 4 World's largest
- 5 World's largest
- 6 World's largest
- 7 World's largest
- 8 World's largest
- 9 World's largest
- 10 World's largest
- 11 World's largest
- 12 World's largest
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DOWN

- 1 Intensive
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Diagrams, 17x17  
By Adam Christopher

ACROSS

- 1 Use a dagger
- 2 American Beauty
- 3 March place
- 4 Musical place
- 5 English river
- 6 Play's end
- 7 Sonnet
- 8 Kind of energy
- 9 Greeting word
- 10 Greeting word
- 11 Greeting word
- 12 Greeting word
- 13 Greeting word
- 14 Greeting word
- 15 Greeting word
- 16 Greeting word
- 17 Greeting word
- 18 Greeting word
- 19 Greeting word
- 20 Greeting word
- 21 Greeting word
- 22 Greeting word
- 23 Greeting word
- 24 Greeting word

DOWN

- 1 March
- 2 Shipshape
- 3 Dedicate
- 4 Dedicate
- 5 Turner of leaves
- 6 Medial column
- 7 of a kind
- 8 of a kind
- 9 of a kind
- 10 of a kind
- 11 of a kind
- 12 of a kind
- 13 of a kind
- 14 of a kind
- 15 of a kind
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- 17 of a kind
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- 19 of a kind
- 20 of a kind
- 21 of a kind
- 22 of a kind
- 23 of a kind
- 24 of a kind

Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Big ugly bulldog eyes onto Scotch terrier barking in kennel alongside his tall red doghouse.

2. Pterocera in pet shop cages are seen sitting on their perches in parallel lines.

3. Snowed-in kennel operators looked oodles of noodles to feed their litters of chow and poodles.

4. If our world changes as it has been doing, we will need to buy a fresh atlas each year.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. HJYJ WFA AWL LDJQJ HCJPE UWTQ

2. EBYOZD RAK UZINLEGIU CRZEE KEE

3. RABBIT HOPN UL UPNDOWN AS CZDN

4. ENOK FUMICGIN FAKTUR SPINT EMBU

5. UAPPA PG CLXORXOD CLUR SMO DAPPE

6. CLUXA DAPPER.

7. CLUXA DAPPER.

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## Traditional medicines take off in the West

By Jacques Boyer  
Agence France Presse

GENEVA — Traditional medicines used for centuries in Asia and Africa are experiencing a boom in the industrialised countries of the West, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Acupuncture, herbal medicines and traditional healers and midwives are also resisting the pressure of Western science in their countries of origin, with some 80 per cent of the world's population having recourse to such methods.

In the past two decades they have found favour in the countries of Europe and North America despite ever more sophisticated modern treatments and the power of the pharmaceutical lobbies.

A third of adult Americans have used alternative methods, while in Britain the Consumers' Association found that one in four of its members had consulted non-conventional practitioners in 1991, compared with one in seven in 1985.

In Germany the market share of herbal medicines

progressed from 7.7 per cent in 1985 to 10 per cent in 1989.

Meanwhile in Japan Western treatment seems to be fighting a losing battle against traditional Chinese medicines, known as Kam-po, whose sales between 1974 and 1989 increased 15-fold, against only 2.6 times for Western products.

Dr. Zhang Xiaoru of the WHO's Traditional Medicine Programme said that people were not necessarily disappointed by Western methods, which are quicker and more effective in the case of acute illnesses.

Traditional medicines were preferred for discomfort rather than chronic pain, including back and stomach ache, nausea and problems requiring long-term treatment without the side-effects of some chemical products.

One other great advantage is the relative cheapness of traditional medicines in the industrialised as well as the developing world, said Dr. Zhang.

But he warned that Westerners may not be making the best use of the Asian and

African treatments. "One problem is that they ignore the philosophy that accom-

panies it in China and India," she said.

"Ginseng root can not be taken just like Aspirin," Dr. Zhang added. "Diagnosis must depend on a knowledge of Chinese medicine."

The World Health Organisation publishes recommendations to national health authorities on the correct usage of medicinal herbs in order to ensure the harmlessness, effectiveness and quality of the treatments in which they are used.

Local cultural and social practices, the respect for the knowledge and experience of traditional doctors, the strength of belief and economic factors are all cited by the WHO as favouring cooperation between conventional practice and alternative or traditional methods, the WHO says.

"But there is a lack of regulation, research and training," Dr. Zhang commented.

## Low cholesterol may lead to depression, suicide

LONDON (R) — Low levels of blood cholesterol, generally seen as beneficial in warding off heart disease, may in fact lead to depression and suicide, researchers said.

Dr. Mahmud Zureik from the National Institute of Health and Medical Research in Paris and colleagues studied more than 6,000 working men whose cholesterol levels were monitored over 17 years.

They discovered that 32 of them had killed themselves and the risk of suicide was higher in men with low levels of cholesterol and in those whose cholesterol went down over time.

"Both low serum cholesterol concentration and declining cholesterol concentration were associated with increased risk of death from suicide in men," they said in a paper published in the British Medical Journal.

## ANSWERS

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- (1) — Escorial: One of the largest palaces in Spain. — Adam's Bridge: Sand and rock bridge between Ceylon and India. Legend has it that it was built by Lord Rama so that his army could cross to Ceylon and rescue his wife Sita. — Billingsgate: London fish market. Dates back to 9th cent. As a term means "foul language." — Al-Aqsa: Famous mosque in Jerusalem. It was set on fire by Michael Dennis Roham on August 21, 1969, which flared up the entire Islamic world.
- (2) (a) Blitzkrieg (b) Extradition (c) Iron Curtain

- (d) Plutocracy (e) Secularism
- (3) (a) Victor Hugo (b) Dante (c) D.H. Lawrence. (d) Voltaire (e) G.B. Shaw

### PUZZLES

- (A) Number 3.
- (B) 429 feet. Tom gains 2 feet while running 11 feet. Divide 78 by 2, then multiply by 11.



## U.N. marks International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Level of world poverty is 'inadmissible' — official

By Maria Bizri  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Levels of poverty are reaching higher proportions in the Middle East and Western Asia, a United Nations official said Wednesday.

The executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Hazem Beblawi, said at a press conference held to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, that ESCWA had started concentrating more on the pressing problem of poverty in the region.

On International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, observed globally on Oct. 17, Dr. Beblawi, joined by George Kossafi, chief of ESCWA's human development section, presented a new ESCWA study entitled "Poverty in Western Asia: A Social Perspective."

Dr. Beblawi said the international day aims to raise and promote public awareness of

the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, particularly in developing countries.

The United Nations General Assembly has made poverty eradication one of its priority objectives for the 1990s.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali stated that "extreme poverty offends the most basic values of the Charter of the United Nations. (That) it is inadmissible that at this point in time, 1.3 billion people are living in absolute poverty."

Stressing that poverty is a humanitarian issue, Dr. Beblawi said the problem had taken a different dimension, especially since the industrial revolution.

"Before the industrial revolution," Dr. Beblawi said, "the gap between rich and poor was much less noticeable. The concepts of evolution and development which were introduced with the industrial revolution, however, increased that gap."

In the last few decades, and because of advances in communications technologies, the world's sensitivity as well as consciousness towards the problem of poverty has been raised tremendously, he said.

Dr. Beblawi explained that economists depend on such terms as GDP and GNP to determine the level of poverty, yet that the latter alone is not sufficient to determine the quality of life of individuals in a given society.

"Other factors need to be taken into consideration, factors such as racism, and sexual discrimination are also very important when determining the quality of life in a given society."

On the other hand, Dr. Beblawi continued, an increase in GNP and GDP which does not take sustainable development into consideration is also incomplete.

The international community has for long coexisted with poverty, today, however, it has started taking the necessary

steps towards a system which deals with the problem fundamentally, he said.

The United Nations, along with the World Bank, Dr. Beblawi said, have helped raise the awareness of people as well as governments in order to pave the path of a sustainable development which not only deals with the issue of poverty today, but tomorrow as well.

Responding to a question about the policies of the World Bank towards Jordan, specifically concerning the lifting of bread subsidies, Dr. Beblawi said that although some may view economic reform programmes undertaken by certain countries of the region as negatively impacting people's living standards on the short term, these programmes will eventually lead to better lives in the long run. "Some times one has to weigh the priorities carefully. The question that needs to be asked is whether one prefers to go through a period of hardship today, for a better tomorrow."

## Israel wants better ties

(Continued from page 1)

des that we have to remove in the bilateral relations," he said without elaboration.

Following is a partial transcript of the interview:

QUESTION: Would you agree that the tunnel was sort of the straw that broke the camel's back, as they say, and that the frustration with the failure to achieve progress on the peace front was mainly responsible for this?

ANSWER: I hear it said a lot of times but I don't accept the basic logic. Suppose we are frustrated, suppose we have our complaints, and we do, does this mean that we can resort to violence and start firing at the Palestinians, really without provocation? I think that we're going to have a very complex negotiations for peace. We're committed to pursuing the Oslo accords to their completion. This is something we said before the elections and I've reiterated after the elections and we are proving it in the negotiations with the Palestinian Authority. But I expect it to be not the simplest of negotiations, and yet I think it's important that each of us commits himself, each side commits itself to negotiate peacefully and to contain the frustrations and to walk peacefully on the part of peace. So it's difficult for me to say where to cross the line between understanding a phenomenon and agreeing with it. I cannot agree with violence as a negotiating tactic and I expect that the other side, the Palestinian side, would never agree if I used it as a negotiating tactic. I don't even use closure as a negotiating tactic. I don't believe in it at all as a policy. So of course I couldn't understand the use of violence on the other side, whatever the grievances and whatever the frustrations.

Q: What are you doing to contain the so-called crisis in relations with Jordan?

A: Jordan is a very important country for us. It is one of the nations of peace and I think the underlying relationship is very sound. I think all of the people of Israel want peace and I'm sure that the great majority, if not all of the people of Jordan, in their heart of hearts, want peace. This is an excellent foundation and I think that the exchanges, or the expressions that we heard from Jordan can be seen, concerns that we heard from Jordan can be seen as a passing cloud and I believe we can have brighter days ahead. We've had them before, I'm sure we'll have them again, as well.

Q: Is your government aware of the pressures that Jordan is facing due to the stagnation and the violence and the fears of a spillover from the West Bank to the East Bank?

A: I'm aware of this, of course, but there's no reason for such pressures because we remain committed to the agreements, as I've said. In fact, we were about to negotiate on Hebron on Thursday, three weeks ago, and the meeting was cancelled by the Palestinian Authority that fomented the riots on Wednesday, a day before. So had the riots not been allowed to develop, we would have been well on our way in the Hebron negotiations, and this tragedy would have been averted.

Q: The King is particularly dismayed at the failure of your advisor, Mr. Gold, of informing him of your intention to open the tunnel a day before when he was in Amman.

A: I have great respect for King Hussein and it should be clear that there was no intention to surprise him about anything. In fact, I myself was surprised by the reaction. I went to Europe and you can imagine that had we thought that something of great importance was about to happen, certainly if we had foreseen these events, I would have stayed in Israel. So it is not that we held back on something or that we hid something, just simply that we did not anticipate that the opening of the tunnel would be used to agitate the mass demonstrations that followed.

Q: There's a fear in Jordan, among some circles in Jordan, that you might pursue the policy of negotiations, endless negotiations, which was at one point declared by the former Likud government led by Mr. Shamir.

A: This is not my policy. I'm not interested in negotiating for the sake of achieving peace, peace agreements and their actual implementation. This will be seen as, I think in a short time, as an unfounded charge. But it was from the start, not our policy. It will not be our policy.

Q: But you do insist that you don't agree with land-for-peace. Do you expect peace to be possible without concessions, territorial concessions?

A: Well, first of all, we're committed to Oslo. We have with the Palestinians the Oslo process which we're committed to and we negotiate accordingly. In the case of Syria, we have said from Madrid on... that the Syrians could raise their territorial concerns. We would negotiate from a different perspective. But we've never made it a precondition that they should accept our definition as the price of entering the negotiations. They can bring their position, demanding the Golan Heights, we can bring our position. And we'll see what happens at the negotiations. And I think this is the only way to proceed. This is what we agreed upon in Madrid when we said we have different interpretations of 242 and 338, but we're not going to let them stand in our way. We'll come to the table and each side can bring to the table whatever he wants to bring.

Q: Is there a target date for the deployment from Hebron?

A: I think it would be a mistake to set such target dates and I refused to do so in Washington by gleaning the American experiences in Bosnia and Somalia. There they set target dates which only made it impossible for them to meet the target dates because all sorts of pressures begin to mount on that date and all sorts of people who want to obstruct the redeployment, act to do so. Rather than taking such an approach that I think could actually hinder the negotiations, I suggested something else. That we negotiate marathon style, without stop, continuously until we get a result. And if it's necessary, then I could meet Arafat to close the deal, so to speak. And this is precisely what we're doing. We're negotiating non-stop.

Q: The King was reported to have made some strong comments expressing his disappointment, addressed to you. And he later said that his comments were well-received. How well-received were they?

A: I heard the comments. I obviously was sorry to hear of his consternation. I think that such things happen among the best of friends and I believe that we'll be able to put behind these difficulties, and may I say, even some misunderstandings, as well.

Q: Is it true that the previous government had opened secret talks on the final status of Jerusalem?

A: It's true that one of its members, was then deputy minister, Mr. Beilin, had talks with Palestinian representatives about this issue. I think that he was not acting as a private citizen, because he was very close to Mr. Peres. We had no agreement, per se, was arrived at. It wouldn't be binding anyway because it's against the Oslo path.

Q: And when do you expect the final status talks to begin? Are you sticking to a timetable?

A: Well, to a sequence. I don't know how much time it would take. If the sequence is accomplished very rapidly then we'll go into it right away. But the sequences, Hebron and the cluster of issues around it that we want to negotiate, and then all the remaining issues left over from the interim settlement, an then proceed into the final settlement. I think this is important because ultimately, we have to know where we're going. We have to know how we coexist with one another. Between Israel and Jordan there's peace. Between Israel and the Palestinians there is great unease, but a great desire for peace. And we have to find a way for the two peoples to live in peaceful coexistence and in harmony and in economic and cultural cooperation, between the Jordanians and the Syrians. It's not an easy task. I think we can define such a solution. We can bring to this solution the backing of the great majority of the Israeli people because when we'll negotiate such a peace which will inevitably involve give and take, which means we'll not only ask, but we'll also have to give certain things, then we can secure the backing of the Israeli people. And this is a very important component for the durability of the peace, making it hold. I expect the same from Arafat. I expect him to bring the backing of the Palestinian community and not just a faction. I expect him to be able to muster broad, popular support for the idea of peace and the reality of peace. And it's my dream and my fervour dream that I would be able to travel with my children, as a private citizen when I leave office, because I don't intend to be in politics for the rest of my life. I intend to, when I leave office, by law there can be no more than two terms for a prime minister of Israel, so I would like to take my young children and visit, maybe well before I retire, in the Palestinian areas, meet the children of the Palestinians and have a normal relationship between our two peoples, between our families. This is what I would like to see at the end of this process. Maybe it may appear today a far-fetched dream, after the violence that

we've experienced, but I happen to think that it is not beyond our means. And with good will and with God's help, we'll achieve it.

Q: How do you reconcile this need for a coexistence and living peacefully with the continuation of the settlement policy in the Palestinian areas?

A: Precisely by having a delineation of what are Palestinian areas and what are not. Obviously, the Palestinians want all the territory, we'll have counterclaims. You should know, when I say we, I don't mean just me, the present government. The majority of Israelis are prepared to have an arrangement that would enable the Palestinians to govern their own affairs in the areas that are defined as theirs. But the majority of the people also believe that we, as Jews, have a right to live in the ancient Jewish homeland. After all, where did the Jews come from if not from Judea. There is a fairly clear delineation of areas. Most of the Jewish communities are not in the heavily populated Palestinian areas. Hebron is an exception. As you wait, know, most of the Palestinian areas are in the cities are in the Rejwan, most of them, surrounding their villages, so it happens to be a relatively clear delineation.

Q: What's your position on the question of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederal union and what's your position on the idea of rehabilitating Iraq into the peace process?

A: The relations are between the Palestinian entity, which means you should be autonomous and not sovereign, and Jordan is a complex one that should be left, in many ways, to their own decisions and deliberations, subject, of course, to those security concerns that I talked about. I would like to see a free flow in any case, free economic flow, free movement of people, between Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and Israel. I think this is important to secure the peace and to secure a good life for our peoples.

As far as Iraq, Iraq's rehabilitation is dependent on one man Saddam Hussein. Has he rehabilitated himself? Has he changed? Has he begun to accept different norms, to become more tolerant, more responsive to human needs, more pluralistic? I haven't noticed recently. But let me know if this happens. I'll be able to answer your question.

Q: The meeting between President Mubarak and President Weizeman ended with a declaration coming from President Mubarak, that he was not ready to see the prime minister until there is an agreement on Hebron. First, what is your opinion on President Mubarak putting this condition. And second, will you go to the economic conference?

A: I don't ask President Weizeman to carry a request for a meeting so President Mubarak is perfectly free to make any statement that he wishes, but it should be clear that we are not here, standing on line.

Q: But what do you think about President Mubarak's condition for a meeting with him?

A: Well, I received another phone call from King Hussein today in which he suggested, he offered his good offices to help in any way that he could. I think this is a constructive approach.

## Arafat rejects new Israeli plan for Hebron

(Continued from page 1)

any case, security must be the basis of any agreement. I don't think we can afford another breakdown in security," he said.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said Mr. Arafat, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and the Jordanian prime minister, Abdul Karim Kabariti, agreed that Israel's latest proposals could not serve as the basis for an agreement on Hebron (see separate story).

"What we have seen from the Israeli proposals and the papers make it difficult to imagine reaching an agreement on

Hebron in the upcoming short period," Mr. Musa told reporters.

Mr. Arafat was visibly angry as he talked to reporters about the Israeli proposals, saying twice "see the racism" as he accused Israel of trying to restrict Hebron's Palestinian majority while giving free rein to its tiny Jewish settlements.

Mr. Arafat spoke after holding separate talks with Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Kabariti on efforts by U.S. mediator Dennis Ross to forge an agreement over Hebron.

On Wednesday, Israel Radio quoted Israeli Foreign

Minister David Levy as saying Mr. Ross's shuttling between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu was near to producing an agreement. Low-level talks on Hebron also were resuming Wednesday night in the Egyptian resort of Taba.

Mr. Arafat said he would continue in peace negotiations, but added: "It is my right to tell you and expose to everyone — the Arab and Islamic nations and Palestinian people — what bitter truths we face."

Mr. Musa and Mr. Kabariti said that Egypt and Jordan were moving together to support the Palestinians. "The Jordanian position

is the same as the Egyptian one... Coordination will continue on all levels and our united position is that we do not accept any change in the Hebron agreement, and we ask that it be carried out honestly," Mr. Musa said.

Asked by reporters if Israel was trying to rewrite the accord on Hebron, Mr. Musa replied: "It is not a question of writing or rewriting the agreement. It is a question of proposals and positions, and the (Israeli) positions are unsatisfactory."

## PUK forces reportedly advance towards Erbil

(Continued from page 1)

supplies — including food — from reaching the Kurdish areas.

"We regret false and baseless information" by Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, he said.

Asked if Turkey had launched a diplomatic initiative vis-a-vis Iran, Ms. Ciller said: "We are following the issue, a dialogue is continuing (with Iran). Our initiatives are continuing within a dialogue."

Iran meanwhile rejected as "baseless" Turkish charges that it sided with the PUK.

"Iran has always believed that backing a group in northern Iraq would only heighten tension there and that regional countries should act responsibly to ease tension," Iran's official news agency IRNA said, quoting an "informed" source at the foreign ministry.

According to the Associated Press, PUK fighters were advancing on two fronts towards Erbil. The report contradicted an assertion by PUK leader Jalal Talabani that he did not want to mount an assault on Erbil, the "capital" of Iraqi Kurdistan.

PUK fighters were closest to Erbil at Banawiyeh, 32 kilometres from Erbil, the AP said.

The PUK started a counter-offensive last weekend against the KDP, recapturing many towns it had lost in the past seven weeks. Among them was Sulaimaniyah, the second-largest Kurdish city and the traditional stronghold of the PUK.

Fighters from both sides confirmed that the PUK had captured the strategic town of Kuyisanjauq on another front, on the main road between Sulaimaniyah and Erbil. Kuyisanjauq is some 40 kilometres east of Erbil, which has been under KDP control since the group seized it Aug. 31 with help from the Iraqi army.

Iraq's intervention in the fighting prompted the United States to retaliate with cruise missile attacks on Iraqi air defence installations in southern Iraq.

So far, there has been no sign that the Iraqis are involved in the latest fighting. Their tanks are believed to be dug in south of Erbil.

"We are not going to stop," said Rasid Koyat, an aide to Mr. Talabani. "We will go on until the end. We

are going to get all of Kurdistan."

KDP officials claim their rival has been able to bounce back only because Iranian troops have intervened in the fighting, but there was no sign of Iranian troops in this area Wednesday.

A KDP officer claimed the Iraqis were involved — but had recently left.

"Last night, they all started leaving, back to Iran I suppose," said Jamil Mahmoud, the head of a small group of guerrillas guarding a line of trenches on the other side of the frontline. KDP spokesmen outside Iraq also said the Iraqis had pulled out.

Mr. Mahmoud said that now the Iraqis had left, "we will start attacking and win back everything we lost in no time," Ms. Ciller said Tuesday that Turkey had "received information suggesting that there are Iraqis in the forces of Talabani."

A group of Iraqis calling themselves members of the opposition on Wednesday called on the United States to evacuate them from northern Iraq.

"The U.S. should evacuate us, like they rescued the 2,000 U.S. workers and family members earlier," a

spokesman for the group said.

"We are all opposition members, some of whom have worked for the United States," he added.

"We are 450 people, including many women and children, mainly Arabs and coming from the area of Erbil," said the spokesman, who said he was calling on behalf of the group's leader Jawad Djakhlan.

He said Mr. Djakhlan was a prominent member of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), an umbrella group bringing together all Iraqi opposition groups trying to oust Iraqi President Saddam.

"We are in a very bad situation here, surrounded by Iraqi secret service members, without money, food and blankets," the spokesman said.

Thousands of people fled Erbil in early September when fighters took the city.

The United States later evacuated from the region nearly 2,000 local people, mainly Kurds working for U.S. agencies and their family members, who feared persecution by Baghdad.

## Prime minister delivers King's message to Mubarak

(Continued from page 1)

"We stick to our firm stand, which is identical to that of the Palestinians and the Egyptians, and we hope that everyone will now help implement the agreements so that a comprehensive and lasting peace be achieved," he added.

On the latest contact between the King and Mr. Netanyahu, Mr. Kabariti said: "He reiterated his commitment (to) the Oslo agreement

and said he will continue working towards reaching a solution to implement it in any way that will ensure security for both the Palestinians and the Jewish population living in the Palestinian areas."

"I believe there is still a chance and I hope that it won't take long for the Israeli prime minister to be convinced of the need to implement these agreements," he added.

"We believe the Palestinian side is showing all flexibility

and willingness to reach an agreement. But all of us, in Egypt, Jordan and Palestine, agree that any agreement should not depart from the text that was signed," he said.

Mr. Kabariti also met Egyptian counterpart Kamel Jazouli and Foreign Minister Amr Musa as well as Palestinian self-rule officials to review the recent Middle East developments.

Mr. Arafat was also in Cairo to brief Mr. Mubarak on the latest developments in the

negotiations, which have made little apparent progress despite weeks of vigorous U.S. mediation.

"The way it looks right now is that there are differences and we hope that with the mediation of the Americans that these differences can be worked out," Mr. Kabariti said.

"I am hopeful but without the redeployment in Hebron I think that we will be having a crisis in hand," he added.

## Erbakan survives confidence motion

(Continued from page 1)

Turkey's penchant for the West — calling Turkey a "country under Western occupation" — its membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and its friendly ties with the United States.

The stunned Erbakan had no reply other than to thank his host meekly for his hospitality during the three-day visit.

"Under this government, Turkey has been forced into a position whose foreign policies are not respected and not found reliable," said Mesut Yilmaz, a former prime minister and leader of the conservative main opposition Motherland Party.

"No matter whether or not the premier survives the motion, his government has already been found guilty by the collective conscience of the Turkish nation," Mr. Yilmaz said.

In response, Mr. Erbakan's spokesman Abdullah Gul said: "Actually, the opposition is not interested in Turkey's honour, but is trying to use this as a tool to topple the government."

"The opposition is also not sincere," Mr. Gul said. "When the West criticises Turkey they stay silent, but when it is Libya they cause an outcry."

## Likud leader 'not bound' by promises made to Syria

(Continued from page 1)

Lebanon a free and independent state. But realistically now, we recognise that Syria holds much sway over Lebanon."

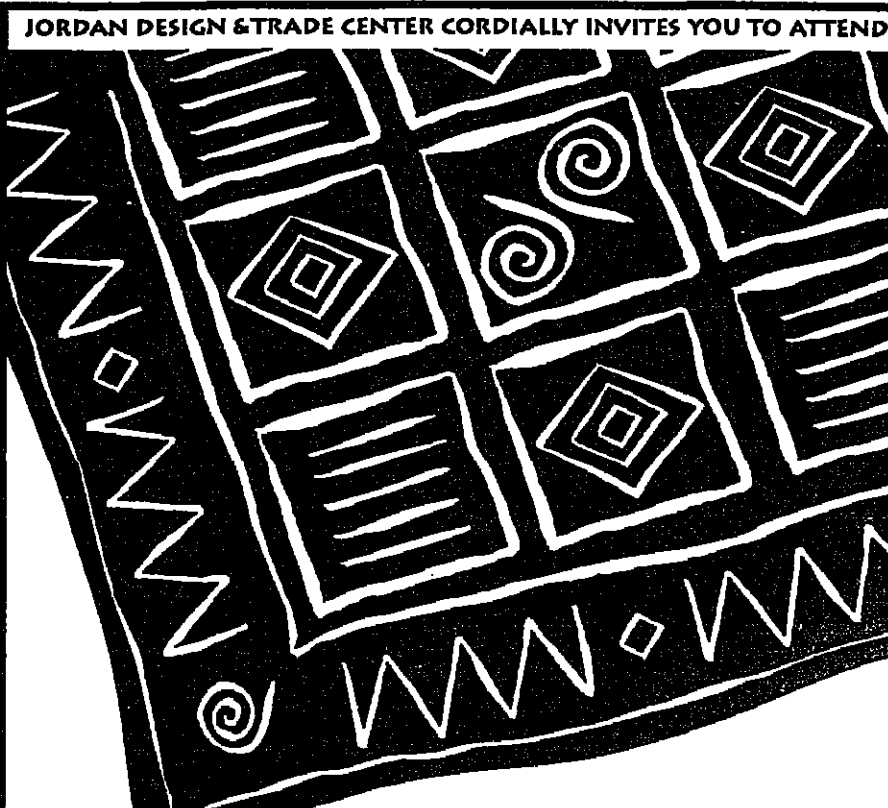
On reports that the former Labour-led government had opened secret talks on the

final status of Jerusalem with the Palestinians, the Israeli prime minister said that a member of the former government, Yossi Beilin, "had talks with Palestinian representatives about this issue."

He added that "I think that

he (Beilin) was not acting as a private citizen, because he was very close to Mr. (Shimon) Peres." He explained, however, that "there was no agreement, per se... and it would not be binding anyway, because it is against the Oslo path."

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## MENA countries see infrastructure key for growth

ISTANBUL (R) — Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) countries should sharply increase their infrastructure investments by raising private sector involvement to attain rapid growth, country ministers and officials said Tuesday.

Ministers from MENA countries and officials from the World Bank and European Union gathered in Istanbul for a three-day seminar held by the World Bank on "growth and public-private investments on infrastructure in the Middle East and North Africa."

"MENA region should aim to double its growth rate to an average of six per cent a year over the years to 2010. To achieve this, there is a need for infrastructure," said Kemal Dervis, vice president of the World Bank's MENA Department.

Noting that current infrastructure endowment was currently inadequate, Mr. Dervis said the investment required to achieve this would need to be provided in part by domestic and overseas private companies.

"Getting the private sector involved, requires new public-private partnership for this purpose, fostered by new roles for governments and their supporters in international financial institutions," he added.

Abdulatif Al Hamad, chairman of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, said socio-economic problems haunting MENA countries, like high deficits, population growth rates, migration from rural to urbanised areas and environmental pollution hindered infrastructure investments which were "the wheels of the economic activity."

Ministers from Morocco, Palestine, Egypt, Turkey, Jordan, Tunisia and Algeria who attended the conference, shared views that infrastructure investments were key for future development in the region and the load should be transferred to the private sector from the public sector.

"There are new realities in the region. Building peace involves a comprehensive cooperation. Cooperation cannot be successful unless we have infrastructure network not only in the country, but also among the neighbouring countries," said Rima Khalaf Hunaidi, Jordan's minister of planning.

Ms. Hunaidi said her country was pursuing private sector for infrastructure investments while keeping its leader role in planning and regulating them.

"The governments must be transparent and consistent to cultivate a closer partnership with the private sector. But on the other hand, the private sector should stop relying on government support," she said.

## WTO experts urge negotiation on investment rules

GENEVA (R) — World Trade Organisation (WTO) analysts argued Wednesday that both rich and poor countries would benefit from a binding agreement setting rules for the treatment of foreign direct investment (FDI).

Their controversial report, compiled by the WTO's usually cautious secretariat, said only negotiation among the trade body's 124 members could provide the "global and balanced framework" for such a deal.

The outcome of such talks — rejected by several key emerging economies — "will have an important impact on the efficiency with which scarce supplies of capital and technology will be employed in the next decade and beyond," it declared.

"It will also have an impact on the strength, coherence and relevance of efforts to integrate all developing countries into the (WTO-administered) multilateral trading system," the WTO stressed.

The analysts said investment and trade were mutually supportive in a joint process "central to development strategies and more generally, to worldwide efforts to increase wealth and raise living standards."

WTO Director-General Renato Ruggiero has already said the report makes a compelling case for tackling in the trade body the fast-growing volume of FDI flowing into national economies.

The European Union, Japan and Canada want agreement on some sort of WTO talks on investment rules, to be included in a declaration to be issued by the fledgling trade body's first ministerial conference in Singapore in December.

Their proposal has been fiercely resisted by some developing countries — primarily India, Malaysia and Tanzania but also Indonesia — which argue that WTO rules would make it impossible for them to pursue national industrial policies.

Any accord in the WTO,

which replaced the old General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in January 1995, would be based on the principle of national treatment — or setting the same rules for both foreign and domestic investors.

Last week a senior Indian official told an investment forum at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) that his country, although opening up its once state-dominated economy, could not accept such restrictions.

And a delegate from Malaysia said any such pact would effectively mark a return to colonial control of Third World economies by big transnational corporations.

On Monday India's ambassador to the WTO, citing advance indications of the report's contents, challenged the right of the secretariat, headed by Mr. Ruggiero, to openly take a position on a controversial issue under debate within the body.

The analysts, he declared, appeared to be taking "a one-sided view."

Major powers argue that the size of FDI in the global economy — soaring to an estimated \$315 billion last year from \$60 billion in 1985 — makes a global agreement vital.

## REUTERS REUTERS

### The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.5370	0.6315	1.2655	112.12	1.3555	1534.35	1.7260	5.2048	
DE Mark	0.6506	1.0000	0.4106	0.8227	72.90	0.8816	996.88	1.1221	3.3636
GB Sterling	1.5835	2.4900	1.0000	2.0056	177.45	2.1464	2429.64	2.7331	8.2418
CH Franc	0.7896	1.2142	0.4987	1.0000	88.49	1.0708	1211.49	138.26	4.1083
JP Yen	0.0089	1.3705	0.5828	1.1277	1.0000	1.2084	13.87	153.81	4.6384
CA Dollar	0.7377	1.1299	0.4875	0.9257	1.21	1.1252	129.29	11.25	3.3915
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0025	0.4117	0.8825	1369.11	0.8840	1.0000	1.0000	3.0135
NL Guilder	0.5784	0.9006	0.3658	0.7332	64.94	0.7954	888.37	1.0000	3.0135
FR Franc	0.1921	0.2955	0.1214	0.24370	21.54	0.2605	33.17	33.1700	

Energy		
Oils	Last	Previous
Brent	25.55	25.40
W. Texas	25.45	25.40
Bony	25.65	25.40
Dubai	21.86	22.32
UL Gas	228.00	228.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4100	0.16838	0.33754	29.9088
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.41869	0.17196	0.34471	30.5437
KV Dinar	3.3350	5.12821	2.10615	4.22119	374.111
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.40783	1.67504	3.35796	297.51
CY Pound	2.1325	3.2797	1.3468	2.6985	238.197

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	381.5	382.1
Silver (oz's)	5.06	5.08
Platinum (oz's)	385.2	386.2
AL (3 Months)	1341	1344
CU (3 Months)	1909	1914
Zinc (3 Months)	1021	1022
Lead (3 Months)	738	742
NI (3 Months)	7060	7085

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Period	1	3	6	9	12
Cncy	Month	Months	Months	Months	Year
USD	5.19	5.42	5.54	5.82	5.75
GBP	5.75	5.90	5.79	5.92	6.25
JPY	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.50	0.59
DEM	3.00	3.02	3.05	3.07	3.10
FRF	3.38	3.45	3.53	3.58	3.56
CHF	1.68	1.62	1.65	1.72	1.72
ITL	8.31	8.11	7.84	7.63	7.23

Main Equity Indices							
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pt Ch
New York	DOW JONES	5973.1	-31.68	-0.53	6014.47	5971.99	6004.78
Paris	CAC 40	2158.52	-9.76	-0.45	2171.19	2149.23	2168.28
Frankfurt	DAX	2714.9	-13.55	-0.5	2727.48	2712.39	2728.45

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	121.83	Spot
Cocoa (5/ton)	1476	Spot
Sugar (5/ton)	328.3	Spot
Wheat (5/ton)	160	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	21.45	Spot
Tea (5/kg)	115	Spot
Barley (5/ton)	2.4	Spot
Rice (5/ton)	465	Spot

JOD Cross Rates			
Currency	Buy	Sell	
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	
GB Sterling	1.122	1.1276	
DE Mark	0.4588	0.4611	
CH Franc	0.5573	0.5601	
FR Franc	0.1357	0.1364	
JP Yen	0.0301	0.0303	
NL Guilder	0.4089	0.4109	
IT Lira	0.4624	0.4647	

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

## Egypt says unrest will hit Mideast tourism

CAIRO (R) — Unrest in the Middle East will have severe effects on tourism, especially on tours which take in more than one country, Egyptian Tourism Minister Mamdouh Al Beltagi said in an interview published Wednesday.

"The whole region is going to suffer a strong decline in the number of tourists, not only Israel," the minister told the French-language weekly Al Ahran Hebdo.

"If the situation doesn't calm down, the system of packages between U.S., Israel and Jordan will suffer

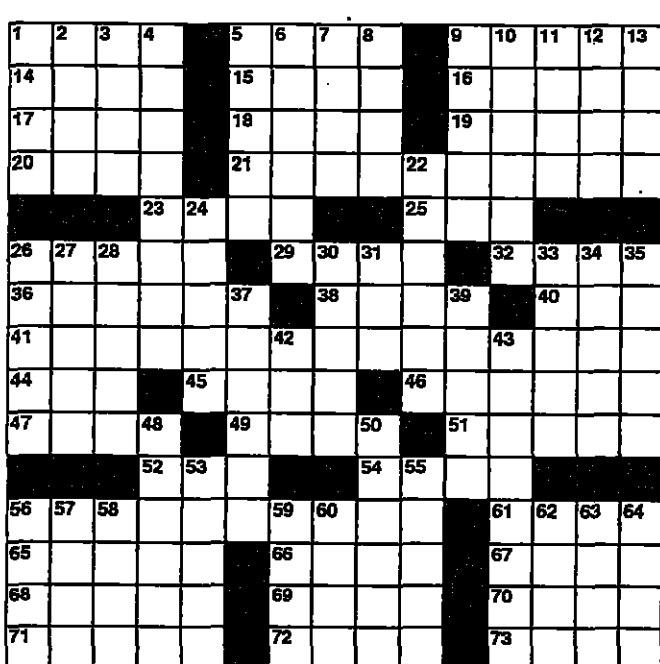
direct repercussions. I have recently received information from travel agencies that German and Italian groups have cancelled their reservations on tours of Egypt, Jordan and Israel," he said. The minister said two tourism cooperation projects were in doubt because of uncertainty about Middle East peace.

One is a "tourism university" to train Arab and Israeli students together and the other is a project to remove the barriers to the free movement of tourists in the region.

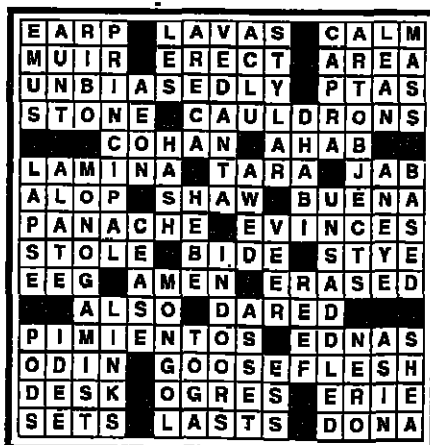
## THE Daily Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Affirm
- 5 Card game for three
- 9 Rascal
- 14 Broad
- 15 Alliance acronym
- 16 Hue
- 17 Maleficent
- 18 Golf club
- 19 Make a pompous speech
- 20 Social engagement
- 21 Song by Fred Spielman
- 23 Immense
- 25 Tap dancer Miller
- 26 Bellowing
- 29 Elysium
- 32 Corp.
- 36 Part of eye
- 38 Cape — Portugal
- 40 West
- 41 Claudette Colbert film
- 44 Modern: pref.
- 45 French town
- 46 Implanted
- 47 NY college
- 49 Slippery fish
- 51 Unique things
- 52 Mothers
- 54 Cast a ballot
- 56 Relative of a cowardly lion?
- 61 Purpose
- 65 Frighten
- 66 Bun
- 67 Roman poet
- 68 Carve
- 69 Involved with
- 70 Skirt style
- 71 Covered floors, in a way
- 72 Observed
- 73 Move slowly



by Dorothy B. Martin



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- 4 Having a bearing
- 5 Cuts
- 6 Method of self-defense
- 7 Upon
- 8 Inflection
- 9 Deride
- 10 Halo
- 11 Woe is me!
- 12 Speck
- 13 Chief executive: abbr.
- 22 Animosity
- 24 Regions
- 26 Berry parts
- 27 Young lover
- 28 Hunter of myth
- 30 Dribble
- 31 Long, long time
- 33 Strike, old style
- 34 More secure
- 35 Necessities
- 37 Bear witness
- 39 In active progress
- 42 — de France
- 43 "Dove" (TV series)

- 48 Fine
- 50 Gracefully
- 53 Equipped with weapons
- 55 Synthetic fabric
- 56 History
- 57 "— want for..."
- 58 Bucket
- 59 Showy flower
- 60 "— With the Wind"
- 62 Enthusiastic
- 63 Monarch
- 64 McClure or Magnus

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY OCTOBER 18, 1996

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Outside individuals who can assist you today in career activities should be contacted by all means and discuss whatever methods of operation you need to tackle. Tonight will be enjoyable for your close friends.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) Study your surroundings today and make them more efficient and charming. Be more comfortable in them so that there won't be any difficulty or friction in the days ahead by those who live under your roof.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Plan the recreations today which most please you and your mate and soon you can enjoy them. Express your skills in your career activities and thereby you will get noticed by a bigwig who can be very helpful.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You can make your home more bright and charming today, particularly what you have planned. Later this evening you can seek out close friends and have a wonderful time together at recreation activities everyone enjoys.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Do something which will be pleasing to your fellow associates or loved ones and make the relationships more meaningful. This evening can be spent with your mate and plan a romantic time for you both need to be alone.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) A money expert can give you valuable suggestions today, so listen carefully to him or her and make the most of this. This evening can be enjoyable for close friends so long as there isn't any difficulties present with anyone.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You have a flair for dressing well and today you can really be at your best, so that you will be recognised by a bigwig. Romance is possible this evening with your mate so take advantage of this opportunity.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day today to delve into puzzling matters which you really enjoy solving and come up with solutions which will be quite beneficial. Tonight you can meet with fellow associates and discuss your plans of operation.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Try to see as many close friends as you can today and turn an acquaintance into a fast friend who will be willing to do his or her input for whatever you need.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Be diplomatic in the business world today and gain more prestige and goodwill. Use your energies at this time to make yourself successful in your career activities and you can seek out any assistance you would need.

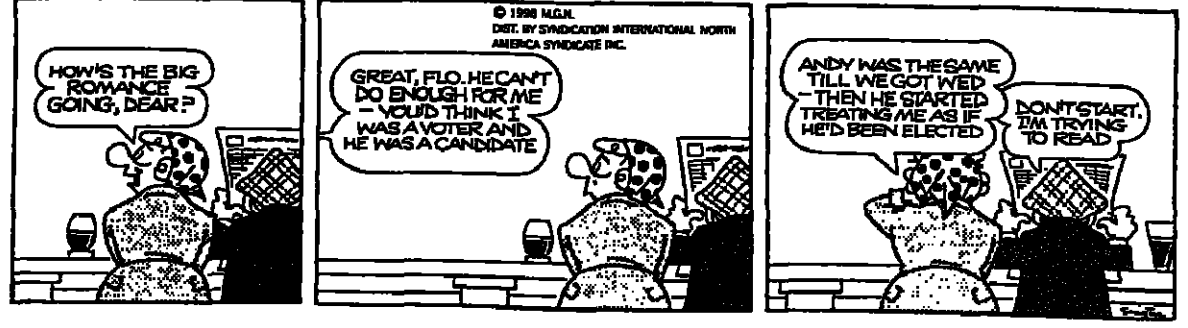
**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Concentrate on new enterprises you can get into today with fascinating persons of different views than your own and use the suggestions which you are given for career activities. Tonight go out with your loved ones.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Be very cooperative with your closest friend and you can have true harmony in the days ahead. Use good judgement in your career activities and then you will gain recognition by those in authority who can be quite beneficial.

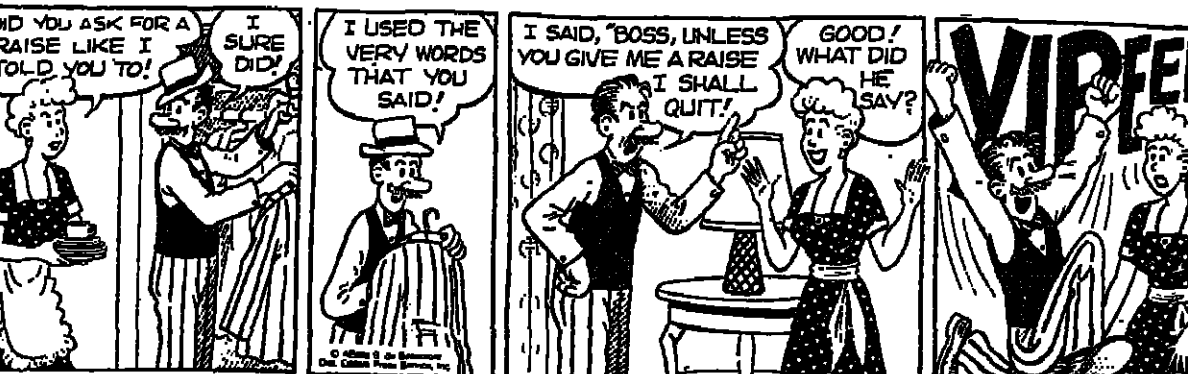
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY OCTOBER 17, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Get fine advice from influential people how best to further your own interests. Enjoy a hobby you like and you can spend some pleasant time in this activity so long as you do not become too involved in other projects.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) Get into some new form of pleasure today and also show your creative talents which will be noticed by those in authority. Plan that trip you want to take with your loved ones and put aside the funds to make it successful.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Get home conditions improved today so that those who dwell with you will be happier there also. Later this evening you can plan to meet with knowledgeable people and determine what you need to make your career activities.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Contact outside fellow associates and talk over plans for the days ahead and being successful. Later this evening will be good for going to fun spots with close friends and having an enjoyable time together without concern for cost.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You can see ways today to have a greater income by doing some extra tasks or earning a raise in your salary. Listen to fellow associates to understand what they have to say and use their advice in whatever your current project.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Make appointments for the social life which you like and tonight do whatever will build your vitality. This is a good time to discuss your options for success with a bigwig and get his or her input for whatever is necessary.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Try to add to the tranquility you enjoy today at home with your loved ones and make your life more ideal. Please your loved ones by going to fun recreational locations which everyone will have an enjoyable time together.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Get together today with fellow associates and clear up any misunderstandings which have developed and thereby you can establish a good relationship with these individuals. Later tonight go out with your mate and have fun.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You can get some fine suggestions today on how to handle some important matter, so see an expert in whatever field you have concern with and thereby you can gain insight to what you must do to become successful.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You have personal ideas today which are good and you should put them in motion to gain great benefits in the days ahead. Later this evening can be fun for your loved ones if you are careful to not create any difficulties.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Rid yourself today of responsibilities you no longer want to be bothered with. Help your mate later this evening in whatever is of concern to him or her and then you can create a peaceful environment for you both.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Try to be of assistance to both fellow associates and friends today and you can further your own interests which will be noticed by those in authority. Later this evening can be spent with your mate enjoying each others company.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline



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Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein congratulates first place winner Sheikh Mohammad Ben Rashed following April's horse endurance race (file photo)

## Biggest horse endurance race starts Friday

By Aileen Bannayan  
and Mun'em Fakhoury  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Over 200 competitors Friday begin the horse endurance marathon which starts at 6:30 a.m. from the University of Jordan farm in Mouassar and finishes at Azraq rest-house.

The biggest such event ever held in the Kingdom will be held under the patronage of the Crown Prince of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashed Al Maktoum whose two sons will also be among the competitors.

The event is 80 kilometres-long and will pass through the desert castles of Amra and Harrah with four veterinary and rest stations on the way.

Organised by the Royal Jordanian

Arabian Horse Society, headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein, the event is again sponsored by Emirates Airlines who will be awarding two Nissan Patrol cars to the first place winners. Other prizes will be as follows:

• 3rd place	JD 19,000
• 4th place	JD 17,100
• 5th place	JD 15,200
• 6th place	JD 13,300
• 7th place	JD 11,400
• 8th place	JD 9,500
• 9th place	JD 7,600
• 10th place	JD 5,700

The winner will be decided depending on the total overall fitness of the horse, the jockey's weight, the finishing time.

## Dettori to race in jockey world championship

SYDNEY (R) — Six of the world's top jockeys, including Italian Frankie Dettori, will race against Australia's top riders next year in the inaugural World Jockeys' Championship.

The Australian jockey club said on Wednesday that Irishmen Pat Eddery and Michael Kinane and French Arc winner Olivier Peslier would join Dettori in a series of eight handicap races over the last two weekends in January.

Making up the international all-star team would be South Africa's Michael Roberts and Jason Weaver of England, while Australia will be represented by Darren Beadman, Mick Dittman, Shane Dye, Darren Gauci, Damien Oliver and Brian York.

"We're very lucky to get the names that we've got,"

said Colin Tuck, the club's racing manager. "A lot of people will be looking forward to seeing these people racing together in Australia."

The jockeys will have no choice over their mounts in the eight races, which will be drawn for them, and will be marked on a points system throughout the series of races.

Trophies will be awarded to the winning team and the winning jockey overall.

The first two races will be at Sydney's Royal Randwick Course on Saturday January 18. The next three meetings, the next day and the following weekend, will be in and around Melbourne, where the Australian Open tennis tournament will be reaching its final stages.

Dettori, Europe's most successful jockey in recent seasons, recently "rode the card" at Ascot by winning all seven races in a single day. Peslier dazzled when he rode Helissio to a five-length victory in the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp 10 days ago.

Tuck said the jockeys would receive normal prize money for the eight handicap races and would also have the chance to take other feature rides at the four meetings.

"I think they're looking at it as a bit of a working holiday," Tuck told Reuters.

## Brighton fans walk out at end of another miserable day

LONDON (R) — More than 2,000 Brighton fans staged a non-violent protest during their team's league match against Hereford on Tuesday, by walking out of the game which still had 15 minutes to go.

The fans were protesting about the demise of the club who were in the F.A. Cup final 13 years ago but are now lying 92nd and last in the English League.

Brighton lost 1-0 to stay rooted to the bottom of the third division and the walk-out ended another black day in their recent troubled history.

Earlier on Tuesday they failed in their latest bid to find a temporary home.

Brighton, whose heavily criticised board sold their Goldstone ground and have to move next May, approached London Club Fulham to discuss the possibility of ground-sharing until a proposed new stadium is built in Brighton.

But Fulham, also of the third division, said an agreement with their local council prevented them sharing.

"We are sympathetic to Brighton's problems but there's no question of anyone else but Fulham playing at Craven Cottage," club chairman Jimmy Hill said.

Brighton have recently been in discussion with South Coast neighbours Portsmouth about sharing their Fratton Park ground, but Portsmouth have yet to make a decision.

Brighton, who played against Manchester United in the 1983 FA Cup final, are looking increasingly likely to be relegated from the English League into non-league football if they are still in existence next season.

## Monaco and Feyenoord leave themselves a safety margin

PARIS (AFP) — French side Monaco and Dutch club Feyenoord left themselves large safety margins for their return second-leg UEFA Cup second round clashes in a fortnight's time by going on scoring sprees in Tuesday's away clashes.

Two goals from Nigerian striker Victor Ikpeba inspired Monaco to a stunning 4-2 victory over Borussia Moenchengladbach in Germany, while Feyenoord stripped away Espanyol's hopes by coming away from Barcelona 3-0 winners.

Other teams to win away were Danish side Brondby and Spain's Valencia. Brondby showed up Aberdeen's lack of maturity in European competition by coming away 2-0 winners from Scotland after taking their chances.

And Valencia, without their controversial striker Romario who has returned home to Brazil vowing never to play for the Spanish side again after being dropped by manager Luis Aragones, were 1-0 winners in the Czech Republic against Slavia Prague.

English Premiership pace-setters Newcastle United limited the damage by going down 3-2 away to Hungarians Ferencvaros and Karlsruhe left AS Roma a mountain to climb in Italy in two weeks time after hammering a 3-0 win in the home leg.

Ikpeba, a member of the Nigerian team that won the Olympic gold medal in Atlanta, was the inspiration for Monaco whose other goals came from former Celtic midfielder John Collins and teenage sensation Thierry Henry.

Borussia's scorers were Christian Huchtmann and Swedish international defender Patrik Andersson.

Borussia, who knocked out English Premiership giants Arsenal in the first round, were a trifle unlucky when Peter Wyhoff had a goal ruled out for offside.

Their manager Bernd Krauss praised the visitors after the match.

Monaco supremo Jean Tigana admitted that he had been surprised by the final scoreline.

Feyenoord outplayed Espanyol and could well have won by an even bigger margin. But they settled for goals from Van Gastel, Taument and Larsson.

Valencia, who knocked holders Bayern Munich out in the last round, scored their winner against Slavia in the 74th minute — Carlos



Ferenc Horvath (L) of Ferencvaros and Robert Lee of Newcastle United head for the ball during their UEFA Cup second round first leg match. Ferencvaros won 3-2. (Reuters photo)

Moya finding the net with a neat effort on the turn.

The win will let manager Aragones off the hook after his decision to drop his South American star Romario after the Brazilian front-runner turned up late for training last week.

Romario, who joined Valencia in August, has vowed he will not return to Spain unless Aragones is dismissed. He has also made it clear he wants to rejoin his old club Flamengo in Rio de Janeiro.

The only blemish for Valencia on the night was the sending-off of Jose Ignacio Saez four minutes from time.

Scottish hopefuls Aberdeen will need a miracle to reach the third round. Their Danish opponents always seemed to be in

charge, although there was no lack of fire and passion in the Aberdeen performance.

Although Brondby, who knocked Liverpool out of the competition last year, only mounted sporadic attacks they always looked dangerous whenever they came close to the Aberdeen box.

Kim Dugaard's free-kick just before the interval produced the first goal. It was headed across goal by Kim Vilfort and Ebbe Sand stabbed it home at the near post despite Stewart McKimmie's desperate attempt at a goal line clearance.

Aberdeen mounted a wave of second-half attacks but there was no way through and substitute Bo Hansen added to the Scottish team's

misery by scoring Brondby's second goal in the dying seconds.

Les Ferdinand and Alan Shearer rescued Newcastle United in Budapest with a goal apiece after Kevin Keegan's men had found themselves trailing 2-0.

Hungarian internationals Ferenc Horvath and Krisztian Lisztes capitalised on some sloppy defending by the English club to put the home side two up after just 17 minutes.

But before half-time, Newcastle's multi-million pound strike force had silenced the home supporters.

First Ferdinand used his speed to latch on to and slot home Shearer's near-post cross, and then the England skipper scored his first European goal for the club by thumping home a centre from David Barry.

Peter Beardsley was the Newcastle villain. He gave the home side their chance to score a third midway through the second-half when his poor pass was intercepted by Igor Nischenko who set Lisztes up for his second goal of the night.

"It was a fantastic game, a more open game than anything I have ever seen in Europe," said Keegan. "If we had been a really good side we would have won though. We are not quite a really good side yet, made too many mistakes and they deserved to edge it."

In other matches, French side Metz were impressive 2-0 winners at home against Sporting Lisbon. Inter Milan of Italy snatched a narrow 1-0 victory over Casino Graz of Austria, and the other Italian side Lazio beat Tenerife of Spain by the same margin.

## 'Pressure won't affect me,' claims Naseem Hamed

LONDON (AFP) — Naseem Hamed has refuted suggestions that the pressure will be on him to impress when he makes the fourth defence of his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight title in Manchester next month.

The Sheffield showman, who meets Argentina's Remigio Molina at the Nynex Arena on "judgement night" on November 9, knows his performance in the fight will determine the likelihood of a unification contest with International Boxing Federation (IBF) champion Tom Johnson.

A clash with the top class American has been pencilled in for late February next year, to take place probably in England. But Johnson's advisers are waiting to see Hamed in action once more before allowing the mouthwatering prospect to become a reality.

It means Hamed will certainly have to improve on his last display, when, admittedly suffering from a chest infection, he was distinctly below par, clinging on to his crown after Mexico's Manuel Medina cried enough before the final round.

But the 22-year-old insists he will not go out of his way to turn on the style against Molina just to please the men waving the cheque books.

"I've not got to convince anyone winning is all I care about," claimed the unbeaten crown prince of British boxing. "I'm not going out there to try and impress the Americans. It's not in my head to do that."

"I've nothing to prove and don't have to change anything. Have you ever seen me lose by doing things the way I do?"

"I'm not doing anything new in training. It's not about style. I just know I'll knock Molina out."

While Hamed's long-term ambition remains to win world titles at several different weights, Enslay Bingham is grateful for the chance to claim just one.

The 33-year-old has endured an arduous passage to the top but is aiming to cap the best year of his career by wrestling the WBO light-middleweight belt from American Ronald "Winky" Wright.

Big-punching "Bingo" claimed the British title in January and now stands on the threshold of becoming Manchester's first world champion for 60 years.

He publicly thanked Frank Warren for giving him the opportunity to achieve that feat on home soil and said: "I'm ready for a long, hard battle with Wright."

"He's gone down a few times during his career but has lost only once in 36 contests and I'm preparing for him to be at his best when we meet."

The Steve Collins-Nigel Benn re-match tops the bill on Warren's "eyes of the tigers" promotion next month, for which three quarters of the tickets have already been sold.

Heavyweight Scott Welch — mandatory challenger for the WBO crown — and Herbie Hide also feature on the biggest-ever boxing show staged in this country.



French Inter Milan player Youri Djorkaeff (L) is tackled by Austrian Dieter Ramusch (C) during their UEFA Cup soccer match in Milan. Inter Milan won 1-0. (Reuters photo)

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA  Emilio Estevez & Dennis Leary ... in <b>JUDGEMENT NIGHT</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL: 699238 PLAZA  The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahmad Zaki .... in <b>NASER 56</b> (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00	CINEMA TEL: 677420 CONCORD  CONCORD "1" Demi Moore & Gary Oldman ... in <b>THE SCARLET LETTER</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30  CONCORD "2" FRENCH KISS at 6:30 p.m. HEAT at 3:30 & 8:45 p.m.	Amman Theatre & Cinemas TEL: 618274 - 618275  Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled <b>Five-Star Government</b> Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimah & Hussein Tubishat Play starts 8:30 p.m.	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155  PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY <b>Arab Human Rights</b> At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155 - 640155
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## Wihdat play Faisali Friday Shabab Al Hussein score important win

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Wihdat Friday play Al Faisali in the final match of the first leg of the Kingdom's Premier League soccer championship.

The match is the high point of the competition and is expected to draw the biggest number of fans who will come out to watch the two teams and former champions and competition record holders Al Faisali fight it out for the first place in the ten-team standings.

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Wihdat	8	5	3	-	14	4	18
Ahli	9	4	4	1	20	11	16
Faisali	8	4	4	-	15	6	16
Hussein	9	4	4	1	13	8	16
Ramtha	9	4	3	2	11	7	15
Qadissieh	9	2	5	2	14	14	11
S. Hussein	9	2	4	3	10	12	10
Jazireh	9	1	3	5	4	10	6
Kufroum	9	-	4	5	5	19	4
Qoqazi	9	-	2	7	6	21	2

Al Wihdat meet Al Faisali Friday in the league's final postponed first leg match.

Al Wihdat are currently in the lead with 18 points while Al Faisali are third with 16 on goal difference. On Wednesday Shabab Al Hussein scored an important 2-0 win over Al Qoqazi

to take their overall points standings to 10 and move away from the relegation-threatened last two. Al Qoqazi are still winless and have only two points in the overall standings.

## Unheralded hero sparks Yankee title bid

NEW YORK (AFP) —

Surf's up, dude. And Bernie Williams, who speaks softly and carries a big stick, has ridden a tidal wave all the way into the World Series.

The Puerto Rican outfielder has been a playoff star for the New York Yankees, sparking them to the American League baseball championship and their first World Series since 1981.

"The whole atmosphere, the electricity in the air, is the reason I have done so well," Williams said. "It brings out my best. It is comparable to a surfer riding a wave. It's the biggest wave I have had so far."

Williams will play a major role for the Yankees in the World Series, which begins here Saturday against the National League winner, either St. Louis or reigning World Series champion Atlanta.

But you will not hear him say much about his success. "I have always kept to myself a lot. I don't make a lot of noise," Williams said.

"I try to keep quiet and let the way I play talk for me."

Williams, who makes three million dollars a year, batted .474 with two home runs and plated six runs against Baltimore in the AL finals. His .454 career play-off average is the best of anyone with at least 40 times at bat.

"We tried everything against him and it didn't work," Baltimore manager Davey Johnson said. "I don't know how you get him out. He is a special player who has taken it to another level."

In the regular season, Williams batted .305 with 29 homers and knocked home 102 runs.

"Bernie Williams is one of the best stars nobody knows," fellow Yankee outfielder Tim Lincecum said.

Williams, 28, was named the most valuable player of the American League play-offs. But the fourth-year major leaguer still recalls six years spent rising through the Yankee development system of minor-league teams.

## Sainz closes in on McRae in San Remo

SAN REMO (R) —

Spaniard Carlos Sainz was closing in on Scot Colin McRae as the San Remo Rally, eighth round of the World Championship, entered its final stages on Wednesday.

Subaru driver McRae, 32 seconds ahead of his Spanish rival on Tuesday, held off Sainz on Wednesday's first stage, losing just four seconds on the daunting, 40-km stretch over Monte Ceppo.

Ford driver Sainz was slowed by brake problems for the last four kms but turned the tables to make up 10 seconds on the next stage and reduce the gap behind McRae to 18 seconds with just 80 kms to run.

"Maybe I'm getting more used to the car, suggested Sainz who had not previously raced the Ford on asphalt."

McRae must finish to guarantee Subaru the lead in the World Manufacturers' Championship and tyre choice could prove decisive in damp, treacherous conditions.

Subaru's position was weakened when third-placed Italian Piero Liatti's engine failed to restart on Wednesday morning.

Swede Kenneth Eriksson was lying third in his Subaru, ahead of Belgian Ford driver Bruno Thiry who lost ground with a poor tyre choice.

## Seles is counting on fitness and a change of fortune in '97

PARIS (AFP) — A year which started out so rich in promise and with a memorable victory at the Australian Open, turned sour on joint world No. 1 Monica Seles.

But she is confident that renewed fitness and a change of fortune will enable her to reach new peaks in 1997.

Certainly Seles has not been blessed by good fortune.

Stopped in her prime by a knife-wielding maniac as she played a tournament in Hamburg, and struggling for more than two years to banish the demons of that dreadful Friday evening, she had hoped she might once again take her rightful place at the top of the game this year.

But instead she has been dogged by injury and fitness problems from day one of her comeback.

First it was tendinitis in her knee, caused by too much practise too soon. And then a muscle tear in her left shoulder took the cutting edge from her game and hindered her throughout the year.

The daunting prospect of surgery and months of rehabilitation in an Olympic year in which she

hoped to match Steffi Graf's 1988 'golden' Grand Slam, was put to one side. But it hovered over her all year as she failed at the French Open, Wimbledon, the Olympics and the U.S. Open.

Seles' only consolation was that she was able to play a pivotal role in helping the United States regain the Fed Cup.

"The year hasn't been easy," she admitted.

"After the Australian Open there were so many different views and different things we have been trying for my shoulder. I definitely never thought it would become what it became."

"Now I really need to get myself fit. I talked a lot with two other athletes who had a similar problem. It is a very slow, frustrating process."

"The only thing I've got to do is be careful in the future with my serves and how many serves I am going to hit. I need to change my motion a little bit. It would be much more of a comfort knowing that you are going to hold your service games. Instead I have been having to fight from the back court for every point."

Not only has the injury prevented Seles reaching full power with her serve, but the constant worry and anticipation of pain has taken the edge off her most potent weapon — her usually rock-solid concentration.

Once, she admits, a bomb could have gone off and she wouldn't have noticed. Now, the focus wavers, and pain makes each tournament a gamble that often doesn't pay off.

"I was really disappointed about Wimbledon," she revealed, where she lost in the second-round to the virtually unknown Slovak, Katarina Studenikova.

"At the French I didn't really expect anything because I knew the amount I didn't play before and how it would be Russian roulette. But Wimbledon, I thought I'd do well, because I felt I had a good draw. I wasn't very happy with the way I played there."

That was really a disappointment to me this year. Wimbledon will not be a happy memory."

Still trying to avoid surgery, Seles has elected to take a few weeks off before playing the season-ending WTA championship

at Madison Square Garden in November.

"It's tough if you have surgery. That's a big decision. It's a long re-hab, that's for sure. I don't want to think about that because maybe there's a chance of avoiding it. It's important for me not to miss months and months again like I've had this year. It's hard both mentally and physically," she said.

"I want to play for years, and mentally I do feel really strong and think I'm going to be able to do that. But it's obviously going to depend on my body too."

"I think physically I'll need to make some adjustments and I'm trying to do that. But it's hard because I keep getting injured."

There's always something stopping me. I get on the train for two weeks and something happens and I'm off it for a month."

The time that Monica spent out of the game does have a silver lining.

She's still only 22, and it means that she is in no hurry to leave the Tour again and take an early retirement.

"As long as I like to play tennis, and each time I step on the court I'm happy. I'll continue," she promised.

"The only thing I might not do is play so many tournaments, because I'd rather do that and play for 15 more years than play 20 tournaments a year and only play four more years."

When she does eventually quit, Seles says that travel — for enjoyment rather than as a necessity — will be a priority before she takes up a new career.

Once, she talked of becoming an actress, but now she puts that down to "teenage dreams."

Her interests have turned in a different direction.

It is no secret that she loves kids, and they played a major part in her decision to return to the game when she joined a group of them at a special Olympics gathering while Wimbledon 1995 was being played without her.

"One thing I do want to do is something with kids," she revealed, "because my very good friend works for kids in Sarasota."

From her I've seen it's tough because you don't have any personal life, but they have what I call this pure happiness."

## Turkey to build 80,000-seat Olympic stadium

ISTANBUL (AP) —

Turkey opened tenders Monday for construction of an 80,000-seat Olympic stadium, a key selling point in its bid to host the 2004 summer Games.

Istanbul, one of 11 cities bidding for the games, said it plans to build the stadium whether or not it is awarded the Olympics.

"We will chose four or five firms by December and make our decision by next march for the final company," bid committee chief Yalcin Aksoy said.

He said the exact cost of the stadium.

"We can afford some \$150 million but, of course, the amount will be decided upon the shape of the stadium," Aksoy said.

The committee receives about \$15 million a year from the Turkish government and other sources under terms off a special

law passed in 1994 to support Istanbul's bid. The law guarantees 80 percent of capital expenditures necessary to finance the Games.

The Olympic stadium is planned to be constructed at Etiler District, some 20 kilometers "away" from downtown on the European side of Istanbul. A narrow waterway, the bosphorus, divides Istanbul, the crossroads between Asia and Europe. Other cities bidding for the Olympics are Athens, Greece; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cape Town, South Africa; Lille, France; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Rome; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Seville, Spain; Stockholm, Sweden, and St. Petersburg, Russia.

The International Olympic Committee will reduce the field to a shortlist of four or five finalists in March. The winning city will be selected by the IOC next September.

## Ferreira scrapes by Furlan at Czech Open

OSTRAVA, Czech Republic (R) — Second seed

Wayne Ferreira struggled past Italy's Renzo Furlan 7-5 4-6 6-3 in the first round of the Czech Indoor Open on Tuesday.

But lanky fifth seed Todd Martin easily disposed of Slovakia's Jan Kroslak 6-3 6-4 and eighth seed Bohdan Ulihrach fought back in the last set to defeat his Czech Davis Cup teammate Daniel Vacek 6-2 3-6 7-5.

After crashing out of the first round in each of his last two tournaments, the world number seven Ferreira looked shaky at times, committing a rash of unforced errors that left the match even after two sets.

But another early exit for the south African would have seriously jeopardised

his chances of qualifying for the ATP Tour world championship in Hanover, Germany at the end of the year.

"It's always a tough match against Renzo, he has a game that is suited well against mine," said Ferreira, who currently holds the eighth and final spot for Hanover with Boris Becker, scheduled to play in Ostrava on Wednesday, just 46 points behind.

"In the third set the early break was key, but even when you're on top against him, he's always fighting back," Ferreira added.

Martin, ranked 11th in the world, found the going much easier, however, breaking Kroslak early in each set and saving two break points.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMMAM HIRSHI  
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#### GO WITH THE ODDS

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH  
♠ K  
♥ K Q J 8  
♦ K 8 3  
♣ 10 8 7 6  
WEST  
♠ J 10 9 8 4  
♥ Q 12  
♦ Q 6  
♣ K J 5 2  
EAST  
♠ 7 6 5 3  
♥ A 10 9 8  
♦ J 10 9 8  
♣ Q

SOUTH  
♠ A Q 2  
♥ 8 7  
♦ A 7 6 4  
♣ A 9 4 3

The bidding:  
SOUTH WEST EAST  
10 Pass 17 Pass  
INT Pass 3NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠  
The key to success on many hands is entries. If you have the means to move from one hand to another, you can often choose how you want to establish your tricks. So before embarking on a line, be sure you have access to both hands to collect your tricks.

We like North's decision to jump to three on trump on the second round of the auction. The hand was

surely the equivalent of an opening bid, the king of spades fortified partner's control of that suit and the hearts were a source of tricks. There was no point to pussy-footing around.

West's lead of the jack of spades was most effective — it removed one of dummy's entries as the opening gun. A careless declarer might lead the king of hearts at trick two. As long as East holds up the ace one round, that would limit declarer to two heart tricks, and eight overall, as the cards lie. Try it.

Fortunately, declarer knew that the percentages favored a 4-2 heart split, in which case two entries would be needed to set up and cash a long heart. There was a simple way to accomplish that. At trick two declarer led a low heart from the table.

East won that trick cheaply with the nine and reverted to spades. Declarer's ace won, and declarer still had a heart to lead to the king and force out the ace. When declarer regained the lead, a diamond to the king was the entry to cash dummy's hearts. In all, declarer scored three spades, three hearts, two diamonds and a club.

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4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder from the Tenders Directorate of JVA against a payment of a non-refundable fee of JD100.

5. Time Schedule:  
- Purchase of Tender documents start as of Thursday morning Oct. 17, 1996 until 3 O'clock p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 29, 1996.

- Site visit will be made on Wednesday Oct. 30, 1996.

- Tenders accompanied by a bid security of JD equivalent to 5 per cent of the Bid Price should be submitted to the secretary of Tenders Committee of the JVA not later than 12 noon local time Wednesday, Nov. 20, 1996 at the first floor of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation/Shemesani.

Secretary General  
Jordan Valley Authority  
Dr. Dureid Mahasneh

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# Taleban, Dostum discuss solution to Afghan crisis

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — The Taleban militia and Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum held talks Wednesday in northern Afghanistan on resolving the Afghan factional war, a spokesman for General Dostum said.

Earlier in the day Taleban jets dropped several bombs on villages north of Kabul as thousands of fresh Taleban troops arrived in the capital, local officials said.

There were unconfirmed reports that nine people, all of them civilians, were killed in the air strikes on Jabal os-Siraj and Charkar, recently retaken by former government soldiers.

Taleban soldiers at the frontline outside the military air base at Baghram, 50 kilometres north of Kabul, said that they would try to recapture both towns from former government soldiers.

The Taleban retreated from the two towns last week, after ex-government troops, in a series of hit-and-run assaults, halted their advance northward from the capital of Kabul.

Jabal os-Siraj about 95 kilometres north of Kabul, is the former headquarters

of Kabul's deposed military chief Ahmad Shah Massoud, and many of the villagers support him.

The Taleban-Dostum peace talks, which took place in Mazar-e-Sharif, were also attended by Karim Khalili, leader of the Hezb-e-Wahdat faction representing Shiite Muslims. Dostum spokesman Maulvi Abdul Baqi Turkestani said.

Pakistan's Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar participated in the three-hour meeting in which the Taleban militia was represented by their acting foreign minister, Mullah Mohammad Ghaus. Mr. Turkestani said.

The spokesman said the Afghan parties agreed on the need to set up a commission to bring about a ceasefire and to work for the formation of a broad-based government embracing all groups.

Mr. Turkestani said General Dostum told him by telephone that a delegation of his national Islamic movement would travel to the Taleban militia's Kandahar headquarters in southwest Afghanistan on Thursday to hold further

talks.

"The meeting in Mazar-e-Sharif has been successful," Mr. Turkestani said.

Earlier a Taleban spokesman said the militia's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, had sent Mr. Ghaus along with another official, Mullah Atadad Akhund, to Mazar.

The spokesman, Wakil Akhundzada, said the delegation would try to convince Gen. Dostum to settle all issues through negotiations with the militia.

He said the Taleban emissaries would impress upon Gen. Dostum that there was no reason for fighting between the militia and his faction when all issues could be resolved through talks.

Mr. Akhundzada said the Taleban officials would urge the northern leader to break his alliance with the former government, which was ousted from Kabul when the militia took over the capital on Sept. 27.

He also said that 5,000 new fighters arrived in the city to reinforce the embattled Taleban army, which has suffered a series of setbacks since capturing Kabul last Sept. 27.

Soldiers loyal to Mr. Massoud have been staging a series of successful guerrilla-style attacks on Taleban troops scattered along the road that leads north out of the capital.

"The road going up north is sliced up, with both sides in control of different stretches," said a United Nations official, who did not want to give his name.

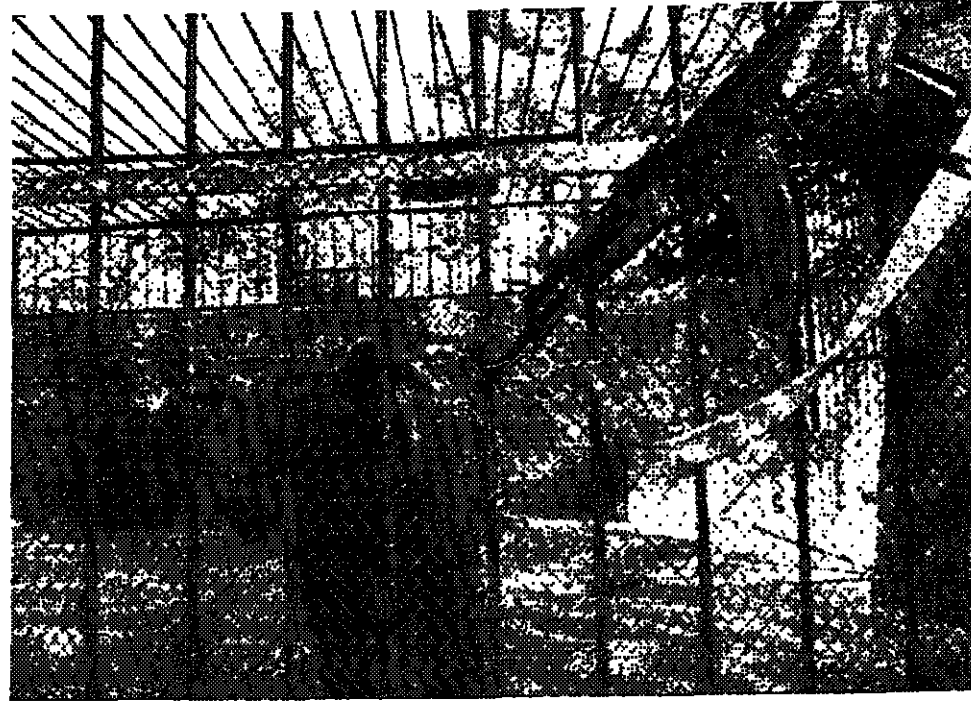
Fearful of another round of heavy fighting in Kabul, hundreds of residents are trying to flee the city.

The bus depots in south Kabul were jammed Wednesday with people heading either to eastern Jalalabad or to Pakistan.

"When I open my shop shortly after dawn, there are whole families waiting for buses to Jalalabad," said Mohammad Ghaus, who sells gasoline at a roadside shop.

Ahmad Farid, an engineering student at Kabul University, was leaving the capital because he feared young men would be conscripted into the Taleban army.

"Many people here say that young men are being drafted into the army and said.



A bear looks away from a Kalashnikov held by an Afghan Taleban fighter at the Kabul zoo. Taleban forces around the capital have become increasingly nervous as ousted government forces take towns within an hour's drive of Kabul (Reuters photo)

## U.S. sees no untoward risk in Iraq's rebuilt missile system, Perry says

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Iraq's effort to rebuild its surface-to-air missile system has not posed an "inappropriate risk" to allied pilots monitoring the "no-fly" zone in the southern sector of the country, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Wednesday.

The defence secretary, speaking to reporters en route to a three-day visit to Russia, said he goes over reports on the Iraqi systems every morning with General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff.

Iraq has reassembled some of the air defence systems blown apart by U.S. missile attacks in September. Pentagon officials have said, but they are not as effective as in the past. Nor have they turned on their radars to challenge the allied pilots patrolling the "no-fly" zone.

Mr. Perry said he and Gen. Shalikashvili go over the situation in Iraq in "close, exquisite detail" and then judge whether it would be "an inappropriate risk" to send flyers into the area.

"The answer, so far, is no. If yes, we'd suspend flying or take other action" to address that risk, Mr. Perry said.

The defence secretary noted that the F-117 Stealth fighters sent into the region in September to hunt down Iraqi mobile missiles have not been allowed to return home, an indication that the threat of Iraqi action still exists.

Mr. Perry did not elaborate further on what additional action the United States might take in regards to the missile defences in Iraq.

The Clinton administration has been sensitive to Republican criticisms that the United States spent a lot of money on missile strikes that did only minimal damage in Iraq.

American warships and planes launched

44 cruise missiles against the Iraqi air defence system Sept. 2 and 3 in retaliation for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's offensive into Kurdish territory in northern Iraq. Cruise missiles cost roughly \$1 million each.

The U.S. administration struggled Tuesday with new challenges from Iraq as Kurdish fighting left a redrawn military map in the north and information surfaced on partial repair of Iraq's air defences in the south.

With the presidential election only three weeks away, U.S. officials were battling to keep on top of developments in Iraq that threatened to cast a pall over Washington's drive to keep President Saddam in check.

The White House sought to downplay a newspaper report that Iraq had taken only two weeks to rebuild its surface-to-air missile network.

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, where President Bill Clinton was preparing for a second debate against Republican challenger Bob Dole, White House spokesman Michael McCurry said Iraqi anti aircraft systems posed no threat to pilots patrolling the no-fly zone in the south.

"It's clear that overall, Saddam Hussein's air defence capabilities, particularly in the no-fly zone, have been significantly degraded as a result of those attacks," Mr. McCurry said.

The Washington Post quoted an unnamed senior U.S. defence official as saying that work on the air defences had progressed to the point that it would take only "a flip of the switch" for Iraq to turn on targeting radar.

## Unhappy military could attempt coup against Netanyahu — expert

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Deepening disenchantment with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu among top army brass has raised the spectre of a coup d'etat in the Jewish state, a leading security expert said in a report published Wednesday.

There is every reason to worry about a military coup if Israel finds itself facing an international crisis at a time when there is deep unhappiness in the military with the politicians," said Zeev Maoz, director of the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv.

"I am aware of the gravity of this prediction, but a year ago the assassination of an Israeli prime minister appeared just as improbable and the danger of a military coup must now be taken into consideration," he said.

Mr. Maoz wrote his warning amid widespread reports of growing ill will towards Mr. Netanyahu and his hardline policies among senior military officers.

A group of 30 soldiers wrote a joint letter to the prime minister last week complaining that his policies were leading Israelis towards an "unjustifiable war" that they would find it difficult to fight.

Military officials have expressed dismay both with Mr. Netanyahu's handling of relations with Syria and his refusal to implement peace accords signed by the previous Labour government and the Palestinians.

Frustration over the stalemate on the Palestinian peace track helped spark unprecedented armed clashes last month between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police which left over 70 people dead.

Mr. Maoz said part of the problem was that Mr. Netanyahu "and his entourage think that all the top officials in the army and the security apparatus were named for political reasons by the previous Labour government."

He said the recent Israeli election reform which made Mr. Netanyahu the first directly elected prime minister had significantly contributed to the dangers of a military coup by lessening the political options for changing the government.

There is obvious tension between the army and government since the may election victory of Mr. Netanyahu.

One of Mr. Netanyahu's first acts was to announce the creation of a national security

council in the prime minister's office. The move caused suspicion in the military that Mr. Netanyahu was trying to cut them out of the policy-making, and was never implemented.

Mr. Maoz said Mr. Netanyahu has kept the generals from his inner circle because he feels most are beholden to his predecessors' peace policies and therefore cannot be trusted.

The problem may be connected to the deep divisions in Israeli society.

Gerald Steinberg, who heads the more conservative BESA Centre for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, accused Mr. Maoz of seeking publicity and said the coup warning was "nonsense."

And Rehavam Zeevi, a nationalist lawmaker, argued that "even if theoretically all the officers would unite" and issue coup orders "the army would not follow such orders because the army reflects the people and the people are from all the parties."

No guns for soldiers near Netanyahu

Hundreds of Israeli soldiers had to hand in their weapons before being allowed into an army memorial ceremony attended by Mr. Netanyahu, the army confirmed Wednesday.

Israel Radio reports said the disarming of the soldiers was unprecedented and reflected security jitters in Israel.

The ceremony for the fallen soldiers of the armoured corps took place last Thursday at a base in Latrun, about 30 kilometres west of Jerusalem. When the soldiers arrived at Latrun, they were asked by the Shin Bet security service to leave their rifles on their buses. The Shin Bet is in charge of protecting the prime minister.

Some of the soldiers later complained to legislator Hagai Merom of the opposition Labour Party. The order "was an act showing distrust of the defence forces, their soldiers and their officers," Mr. Merom told Israel Radio.

Since Rabin's assassination the Shin Bet has imposed much tighter security during public appearances of Israeli leaders.

The army spokesman, General Oded Ben-Ami, confirmed Wednesday that the troops had been disarmed by order of the Shin Bet "as is the practice at events of this kind."

## Bosnian Serb leader says secession is a 'possibility'

BELGRADE (AFP) — Bosnian Serb leader Biljana Plavsic has again refused to rule out the possibility of the Serbs seceding from the rest of Bosnia, in an interview published Wednesday.

"Such a possibility exists," she told the Belgrade weekly Nedeljni Telegraf, when asked about any secession of the Bosnian Serb entity, the Republika Srpska.

"However, my opinion is that the best thing for U.S. is to remain bound to the Dayton accords," the president of the entity added.

In the run-up to Bosnia's Sept. 14 elections, Ms. Plavsic was fined by the international body which ran the polls for calling for secession in defiance of last year's Dayton peace accords.

Ms. Plavsic said that with the elections behind them, the Bosnian Serbs should be in charge of their own destiny.

"Decisions concerning the Republika Srpska can no longer be made in Belgrade," she said.

"Nobody has the right anymore to call our leadership illegitimate, and I don't know if (Serbian President Slobodan) Milosevic is ready to accept this new situation," Ms.

Plavsic said.

The Bosnian Serbs have protested an agreement to normalise relations between Belgrade and Sarajevo, signed by Mr. Milosevic, their former patron, and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

"Meanwhile, it was announced in the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale Wednesday that the newly-elected parliament of the Republika Srpska would hold its first session on Saturday in the northern town of Banja Luka.

The 83-seat parliament must choose five representatives for the upper chamber of Bosnia's joint parliament, which groups members from both the Republika Srpska and the Muslim-Croat federation — Bosnia's other entity.

Sources said it was decided to hold the meeting in Banja Luka and not Pale after a request by top Western civilian peace envoy Carl Bildt.

Ms. Plavsic told Nedeljni Telegraf that one of the issues to be decided at the session was if Bosnian Serb ruling institutions should remain in Pale or be transferred to Banja Luka, the rival Bosnian Serb stronghold.

## 5 killed in gunbattles in Egypt

MINYA (AFP) — A police officer and four militants, including two who took part in a deadly attack on Greek tourists in April, were killed in a clash Wednesday in southern Egypt, police said.

Two police officers and a Coptic Christian civilian, who was caught in the crossfire, were also wounded in the fighting and 28 suspected militants of the armed Jamaa Islamiyah were rounded up.

Several hours later police were still fighting two militants holed up in the village of Badraman on the southern border of Mallawi, in Minya province, they said.

Ismail Abdullah, 29, and Hefzi Abdul Hakim, 32, and two other members of the outlawed Jamaa were killed when police launched a dawn raid on Deir Mawass in the trouble-hit Minya province.

Police identified Abdullah and Hakim as members of a group which took part in the April 18 attack on tourists outside the Europa Hotel in Cairo that killed 18 Greeks.

The Jamaa claimed responsibility for the attack but said it mistook the tourists for Israelis.

Abdullah and Hakim were also accused of involvement in the murder of two police officers during clashes in the Mallawi region of Minya the day after the Europa Hotel attack, police sources said.

One of the other two dead militants was accused of taking part in a series of attacks in November 1995 that killed 17 people, including 11 policemen.

The Deir Mawass clash broke out when police units, using armoured vehicles, surrounded fields to "snuff out" suspected militants after they had climbed palm trees and opened fire on the police, the sources said.

Police found weapons, including an assault rifle and handgun which had been stolen from police in the Mallawi region, 300 kilometres south of Cairo. They also seized large amounts of money as well as Jamaa documents. The latest deaths bring to 1,101 the number of people killed in Egypt since militants launched a violent anti-government campaign in March 1992.

## Somali warlords reportedly implementing new peace deal

NAIROBI (R) — Rival Somali faction leaders have ordered implementation of a peace deal forged in a week of secret talks on how to end the chaos in their country, officials said.

The agreement, one of many signed by Somali factions since the country disintegrated after the 1991 overthrow of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, was announced late on Tuesday after talks in Nairobi brokered by Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi.

The officials said leaders were to head home on Wednesday but aides in Somalia had already been told to start implementing the accord.

They said faction heads Hussein Aideded of south Mogadishu, Ali Mahdi Mohammad of north Mogadishu who also controls the biggest clan network in Somalia and Ali Hassan Osman Atto had met three times in face-to-face talks.

Mr. Moi's government only acknowledged their presence with a press statement announcing the accord late on Tuesday. Somali officials insisted the deal was reached without Mr. Moi.

"The agreement issued by the Kenyan government was reached by ourselves, without their probing. That is

why it should work," Mohammad Addo, chairman of a faction of the United Somali Congress (USC/SSA), told Reuters late on Tuesday.

"There is a new political commitment. Mr. Aideded, Mr. Ali Mahdi and Mr. Osman Atto met together three times, they are serious. (Wednesday) we head home to continue talking to each other, to seek this elusive peace," Mr. Addo added.

A senior official at the meetings said all sessions with Mr. Aideded, Mr. Ali Mahdi and Mr. Atto were "hopeful and nice." He said there were smiles and no one appeared out of line.

The Kenyan statement said Somali leaders declared an end to hostilities, including media propaganda with immediate effect, agreed to allow free movement of people in the capital Mogadishu and remove all roadblocks between their regions.

They also agreed to facilitate delivery of humanitarian aid to the people of Somalia and pledged continued dialogue among themselves.

The leaders met for a week at Mr. Moi's official residence in Nairobi. It was the first time Mr. Aideded, a 34-year-old former U.S. marine who took over from his father Mohammad Farah

Aideded following his death in Mogadishu on Aug. 1, and Mr. Ali Mahdi had met face-to-face, Somali sources said.

The statement said: "The President (Moi) appealed to the Somali leaders to consider that for the last six years Somalia has had no internationally recognised government and that there has been a lot of suffering by the Somali people, especially women and children."

Mr. Aideded, like his father, was elected president of Somalia by supporters and heads a government recognised by no one except Libya and Sudan.

Diplomats said the talks in Nairobi led from Mr. Moi's success in securing the release this month of an Australian pilot held in the southwestern Somali town of Baidoa by Mr. Aideded's faction for 131 days.

Mr. Moi had personally urged Mr. Aideded to free 24-year-old Justin Frazer, who had been sentenced to 25 years in jail for landing his plane in Somalia without clearance in May.

Somalia has been without a central government since Siad Barre's ouster in 1991. Soon afterwards factions turned their guns on each other in murderous battles that left hundreds of thousands killed and laid waste to Somalia.

COLUMBIA

## Calf on rampage at slaughterhouse

AMMAN (J.T.) — A huge frenzied calf caused havoc among workers at the Amman municipality's slaughterhouse Monday when it escaped from its keepers, broke through the gate and attacked people. A report in Al Dustour said that the calf fled as it was being prepared for slaughter and dashed straight for the crowd and then ploughed into a pick up truck causing severe damage to the vehicle. According to the report, a slaughterhouse worker took off his shirt and started waving it before the raging calf in bullfight style. The animal attacked and inflicted heavy wounds on him. The man was rushed to hospital for treatment. Others took cover in their cars while some climbed up trees. A policeman fired several shots from his revolver hitting the calf but failed to stop it. The municipal worker opened fire on the animal with his hunting gun and sprayed it with bullets, bringing the episode to an end.

## Former model splits with Danish crown prince

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — A fashion model who became a telephone operator to win over a skeptical queen of Denmark says she and Crown Prince Frederik are history. "I am not with Frederik any more," Katja Storch Nielsen, 26, told the newspaper Extra Bladet Wednesday. She refused to say why the two-and-a-half year relationship was over. Ms. Nielsen gave up her modeling career in January and became a switchboard operator to curry favour with Queen Margrethe. The monarch was outraged last year when her son's girlfriend, potentially the future queen of Denmark, appeared on a magazine cover in her underwear. Ms. Nielsen was a bit of an outcast throughout her relationship with the 28-year-old prince. She was never invited to the royal court, not even to the wedding of the prince's younger brother Prince Joachim in November. In a book that came out last week, Prince Frederik insisted there was no law obliging him to marry royalty and that when the time came he would "follow his heart." Ms. Nielsen's lawyer confirmed the couple had split. Meanwhile she has gone on holiday to Asia to escape media attention.

## Beatles say 'no' to reunion, further singles

LONDON (R) — The three surviving Beatles have ruled out a reunion and decided not to release any more singles. The decision was announced after the release of Anthology III, the third album of rare archive material covering the career of the world's most famous pop group. To mark the first two Anthologies, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr released two new songs remixed with the voice and backing of John Lennon, who was murdered outside his New York apartment in 1980. The first two Anthology albums have sold 12 million copies. The three surviving Beatles vetoed moves to release a soulful version of their song Helter Skelter as a single. Former Beatles press officer Derek Taylor told reporters at the album launch Tuesday: "There is no more. The Beatles needed what the Americans call closure, and this is it. There will certainly never be a Beatles reunion on stage that is for sure."